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H1N1 vaccination clinic scheduled for at-risk groups

AMHERST, Mass. – The Town of Amherst and the University of Massachusetts Amherst have received a limited supply of H1N1 vaccine and are conducting a clinic for at-risk groups Wednesday, Nov. 11 at Amherst Regional Middle School, 170 Chestnut St. Hours are 9 a.m. – 1 p.m., subject to vaccine availability.

Vaccination will be limited to:

- persons 17 and under;
- pregnant women; and
- those living with infants younger than 6 months.

All minors must be accompanied by a parent or guardian.

The Centers for Disease Control and the Massachusetts Department of Public Health recommend vaccination for everyone in the target groups, including those who have had a recent flu-like illness. However, anyone who is currently ill and has a fever cannot be vaccinated.

H1N1 flu shots will be given only to those medically unable to receive nasal spray vaccine. Persons who prefer the flu shot but do not have medical need should plan to attend a future clinic.

Participants are encouraged to download registration, screening and information forms in advance from one of these websites:

- Town of Amherst: www.amherstma.gov
- Amherst Regional Public Schools: www.arps.org
- University Health Services, UMass Amherst: www.umass.edu/uhs/services/publichealth

Copies are also available at Amherst Town Hall, the Bangs Center and all Amherst public schools

Bring completed forms and insurance cards to the clinic. Lack of insurance will not affect eligibility and there is no out-of-pocket cost for vaccination.

The Town of Amherst is establishing a hotline with information about the clinic. Beginning Nov. 10 at 8:30 a.m., calls will be received at (413) 259-3075.