

November 20, 2009

Dear Howard County Resident,

Each and every week we are making strides in our efforts to vaccinate the priority groups, as determined by the Centers for Disease Control. To date we have distributed the H1N1 vaccine to over 12,000 people through 36 different clinics. Although we are still faced with distribution challenges and unpredictable vaccine delivery we have continued to offer the vaccine to the public as soon as it is received.

We have continued our plans for in-school vaccination clinics at both public and non-public schools. Overall we vaccinated in 13 different sites this week and administered vaccine to approximately 4,000 individuals. The vaccine availability and distribution continues to be a challenge throughout the State of Maryland.

Only one-third of the vaccine that has been distributed in Howard County has come to the Health Department. The Department of Health and Mental Hygiene has also provided the vaccine to local physicians. Call your doctor to inquire about vaccine availability. We have also recently added a Flu Vaccine Finder on our website that will allow you to search for sites that currently have the H1N1 or the seasonal flu vaccine available.

We currently have many clinics planned between now and December 23<sup>rd</sup>. These dates will be set and advertised as soon as shipment is received. We are doing our best to reach as many people as possible and clinics are announced as soon as we receive vaccine. We understand that many people are frustrated with the vaccine delay; we are working as hard as we can to ensure that the vaccine will eventually be available to anyone who wishes to receive it.

For more information on clinic dates and times, please continue to check our website [www.hchealth.org](http://www.hchealth.org), which is updated every afternoon at 4 pm.

Sincerely,

Peter Beilenson, MD  
Howard County Health Officer