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MILWAUKEE HEALTH DEPARTMENT TO HOLD PUBLIC H1N1 VACCINE CLINIC THIS SATURDAY

MILWAUKEE – The City of Milwaukee Health Department (MHD) will provide H1N1 vaccine this *Saturday, January 23 from 10:00 a.m. until 2:00 p.m. at the Sarah Scott Middle School complex: 1017 N. 12th Street.*

The clinic is open to the general public, however in light of recent data showing that statewide H1N1 hospitalizations rates were 2 to 3 times higher for African Americans, Hispanics, Asian and Native Americans than they were for whites this past fall, health officials are encouraging these populations in particular to get vaccinated.

“Unfortunately this data is not a surprise,” said Bevan K. Baker, City of Milwaukee Commissioner of Health. “While it does not account for the many factors that may lead to increased risk of infection such as lack of access to healthcare, being uninsured or having underlying health conditions, we also know that African American and Hispanic populations especially are less likely to get vaccinated and that is the number one way to reduce disease transmission in our community.”

The report, released earlier this month by the Wisconsin Department of Health Services, shows that the rate of H1N1 hospitalizations during the fall outbreak was 38.7 per 100,000 among African Americans compared to 11.6 among Non-Hispanic whites, a 3.3-fold difference. Similar disparities existed for Native Americans who were 3.0 times more likely to be hospitalized, Hispanics who were 2.7 times more likely to be hospitalized and Asians who were twice as likely when compared to whites.

A clinic consent form is posted on the MHD website at www.milwaukee.gov/health and is available in both English and Spanish. The MHD strongly encourages residents to download and complete the form and bring it with them to the clinic to assist in quicker registration processing.

In 2009, more than 25,000 doses of vaccine were administered by the City of Milwaukee.

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Think Health. Act Now!