



WARREN COUNTY COMBINED HEALTH DISTRICT

Prevent - Promote - Protect



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NEWS & INFORMATION

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Health Commissioner

Ohio's Child Passenger Safety Law Has Changed

Ohio Revised Code 4511.81

Every child* under 8 years old must ride in a booster seat or other appropriate child safety seat unless the child is 4'9" or taller.**

Every child* from 8-15 years old who is not secured in a car seat must be secured in the vehicle's seat belt.

A 6 month warning period starts on October 7, 2009. Full enforcement starts April 7, 2010.

The back seat is the safest. Children under 13 years old should ride in the back seat.

*Unless there is a life-threatening situation, the parent has an affidavit signed by a licensed physician exempting the child from the law due to a physical impairment, or the vehicle is a taxicab, a public safety vehicle, is regulated under Ohio Revised Code 5120.011 or was manufactured without seat belts.

** "Child safety seat" includes infant seats, convertible seats, forward-facing seats, booster seats or other federally approved safety devices.

FREE H1N1 VACCINE UPDATE

Vaccination is one of the most effective ways to minimize the spread of seasonal and H1N1 flu. This year you will need two vaccines to be fully protected, the seasonal flu vaccine and the H1N1 vaccine. The seasonal flu vaccine and the H1N1 flu vaccine are separate vaccinations. A seasonal vaccine is distributed every year, the H1N1 flu vaccine after being tested in clinical trials will be available this fall and will be free. The



seasonal vaccine will not protect against the H1N1 flu and the H1N1 flu vaccine is not intended to replace the seasonal flu vaccine. Each protects against a different strain of the virus. The Centers for Disease Control (CDC) is encouraging people to get both vaccinations, as soon as each is available. Currently, the Warren County Combined Health District has the seasonal flu vaccine available for residents. The US Government is currently working closely with manufacturers to produce and distribute H1N1 vaccine which should begin to be available mid to late October in limited supply with more becoming available each week. We expect the 2009 H1N1 influenza vaccine to have a similar safety profile as seasonal flu vaccines, which have a very good safety track record. Over the years, hundreds of millions of Americans have received seasonal flu vaccines. The most common side effects following flu

vaccinations are mild, such as soreness, redness, tenderness or swelling where the shot was given. The Warren County Combined Health District is making plans for the administering of the vaccine. Other settings where the vaccine may be available are health care provider offices, schools, and pharmacies.

The health department will be providing the H1N1 vaccine FREE OF CHARGE when it is available. Like the seasonal flu vaccine,

getting the H1N1 vaccine is completely voluntary. The CDC has made the following recommendations on who should get the H1N1 vaccine: **Pregnant women** because they are at higher risk of complications and can potentially provide protection to their unborn child. **Household contacts and caregivers for children younger than 6 months of age** because younger infants are at higher risk of influenza-related complications and cannot be vaccinated. Vaccination of those in close contact with infants less than 6 months old might help protect infants from the virus. **Healthcare and emergency medical services personnel** because infections among healthcare workers have been reported and this can be a potential source of infection for vulnerable patients. Also, increased absenteeism among healthcare professionals could reduce health-

care system capacity. **All people from 6 months through 18 years of age** because there have been many cases of H1N1 flu in children and they are in close contact with each other in school and day care settings, which increases the likelihood of disease spread. **Young adults 19 through 24 years of age** because there have been many cases of H1N1 flu in these healthy young adults and they often live, work, and study in close proximity, and they are a frequently mobile population. **Persons aged 25 through 64 years** who have health conditions associated with higher risk of medical complications from influenza.

At this time, children under the age of ten will require two H1N1 vaccine injections to ensure the appropriate immune response while those aged 10 and older will only require one injection. It is anticipated that seasonal flu and H1N1 flu vaccines may be administered on the same day. However, the



seasonal flu vaccine is already available so, it is recommended you get your seasonal flu vaccine as soon as possible. The usual seasonal flu viruses are still expected to cause illness this fall and winter. We do not anticipate a shortage of 2009 H1N1 vaccine, but availability will be limited at first. However, more will be available each week. If that is the case, the CDC recommends the following groups receive the vaccine before

CONTINUED: H1N1 VACCINE UPDATE

others: pregnant women, people who live with or care for children younger than 6 months of age, health care and emergency medical services personnel with direct patient contact, children 6 months through 4 years of age, and children 5 through 18 years of age

**DON'T GET THE FLU.
DON'T SPREAD THE FLU.
GET VACCINATED.**

who have chronic medical conditions. The CDC then recommends that once the demand for vaccine for these target groups has been met at the local level, programs and providers should begin vaccinating everyone from ages 25 through 64 years. Current studies indicate the risk for infection among persons age 65 or older is less than the risk for younger age groups. Therefore, as supply and demand for vaccine among younger age

groups is being met, programs and providers should offer vaccination to people over the age of 65. In addition to getting vaccinated, you can continue to take the following everyday actions to stay healthy:

- Cover your nose and mouth with a tissue when you cough or sneeze. Throw the tissue in the trash after you use it.
- Wash your hands often with soap and water, especially after you cough or sneeze. Alcohol-based hand cleaners are also effective.
- Avoid touching your eyes, nose or mouth. Germs spread that way.
- Stay home if you get sick, especially if you have a fever. CDC recommends that you stay home from work or school and limit contact with others to keep from infecting them.

- Follow public health advice regarding school closures, avoiding crowds and other social distancing measures. These measures will continue to be important after a 2009 H1N1 vaccine is available because they can prevent the spread of other viruses that cause respiratory infections.

For more information visit our website at www.co.warren.oh.us/health or the CDC website at www.cdc.gov/h1n1flu. If you would like to schedule an appointment for a *seasonal* flu shot please call 513-695-1229, 513-261-1229, 513-925-1229, or 937-425-1229. The charge for a *seasonal* flu shot will be \$15. The health department will bill Ohio Medicaid, Care Source, AmeriGroup, Molina, and Medicare Part B, please bring your card with you. *The H1N1 flu shot will be free.*

HOW IS THE HEALTH DEPARTMENT FUNDED?

The Warren County Combined Health District is the local health department that provides public health services to the residents of Warren County. The Warren County Board of Health is the governing body for the Warren County Combined Health District. The Board consists of nine members: one from each of the four cities Franklin, Lebanon, Mason and Springboro; four members are appointed by the District Advisory Council, which consists of the President of the County Commissioners, the President of the Board of Trustees of each Township, and the Chief Executive of each City and Village in the county; and one Board member is appointed by the Warren County District Licensing Council which is comprised of a representative from the food industry, public swimming pools, campgrounds, tattoo establishments and manufactured home parks. The Board of Health determines the policies of the health district, establishes goals and objectives, develops the budget and exercises fiduciary care of health district funds. The mission of the Warren County Combined Health District is to **Prevent-Promote-Protect** by **preventing** disease/injury, **promoting** good health through organized community efforts and **protecting** the public from communicable disease. Funding to operate the Warren County Combined Health District is received from many sources:

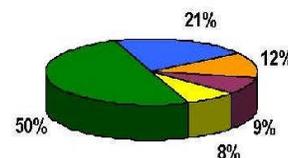
- **A one-half (0.5) mill levy and inside millage** The present levy expires in 2009. A proposed replacement half mill levy on the November ballot would cost the average owner of a home valued at \$100,000 approximately \$15 a year to support the health department. This

amount is down from the existing levy which started ten years ago at \$17 per \$100,000 and this amount will reduce over the ten year life span of the levy. 100% of this money is spent providing services to Warren County residents.

- **Permit Fees** The Board of Health establishes license fees for some state mandated environmental programs such as food service and public swimming pool inspections.
- **User Fees** The Warren County Health Department charges for various personal health services, such as immunizations and adult care clinic visits. Fees are based on a sliding fee scale by income and currently no county resident is refused clinic services for inability to pay.
- **Federal and State Grants** The Warren County Health Department's Well Child Clinic, Prenatal Clinic and Family Planning Clinic are partially funded by a federal CFHS (Child and Family Health Services) grant administered by the Ohio Department of Health. WIC (the Women, Infants & Children) Program is entirely funded by a federal grant. PHEP (Public Health Emergency Preparedness) grant partially funds our Emergency Planning and Response to Pandemic Flu and other Public Health outbreaks such as the H1N1 Vaccination Program.
- **State Subsidy** Currently a maximum of \$0.27 per capita from the 2000 census is received from the Ohio Department of Health. This amounts to around \$40,000 per year and

continues to decrease.

In 2008, the Warren County Combined Health District had revenue received totaling \$4,252,683. The breakdown is as follows:



\$2,123,462 came from the current Health Levy
 \$897,526 was from Permits and License Fees
 \$521,278 was from Federal and State Grants
 \$375,548 was from Clinic Fees
 \$334,869 came from the State, Townships, Villages and Cities, Vital Statistics and other miscellaneous income

Warren County is one of the fastest growing counties in the State of Ohio. Funding from grants is often uncertain and state subsidy amounts are unfortunately inadequate. The Federal Health Care Reform will not provide any funding for local health departments and local funding is therefore crucial to enable the Warren County Combined Health District to provide and keep up with the demand for services that Warren County residents have come to expect.



**Don't Forget to
VOTE
Tuesday, November 3rd**

The offices of the Warren County Combined Health District will be closed on Monday, October 12 in Observance of Columbus Day.

The *WCCHD News and Information* is a monthly publication that is available free of charge. Subscriptions are available by mail or email. If you would like to be added to our mailing list please contact Alicia Habermehl, 513-695-2475 or alicia.habermehl@co.warren.oh.us.