



# News Release

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE –  
Cumberland County Public Health Department  
Contact: Buck Wilson, Director  
Telephone: 910-433-3707  
E-mail: [BWilson@co.cumberland.nc.us](mailto:BWilson@co.cumberland.nc.us)

Oct. 7, 2009

## County Receives First H1N1 Vaccine Doses

FAYETTEVILLE, NC – The Cumberland County Public Health Department has received its first shipment of the H1N1 vaccine. The 1,900 doses are in the nasal spray form made from a live weakened strain of the novel H1N1 influenza virus.

Dr. Lan Tran-Phu, medical director of the Health Department, said that since the nasal spray vaccines are made with the live attenuated virus, they can only be used by the following healthy high-risk groups:

- healthy children and young adults from 2 through 24 years of age;
- healthy adults 25 through 49 years of age who live with or care for a young infant younger than 6 months of age;
- healthy adults who are health care workers and emergency medical personnel.

As more vaccines become available, other adults 25 through 49 years of age should get the vaccines.

“Pregnant women or individuals with underlying chronic illnesses cannot receive this live virus vaccines,” Tran-Phu said.

These initial 1,900 doses will be shared with various community health partners, including civilian and military hospitals, as well as private providers and vaccinators.

“Our goal is to have as many healthy young children vaccinated as possible, so private pediatricians and family practitioners will receive in priority these vaccines for their patients,” she said.

Children in the Cumberland County Schools, about 53,000 students, will be offered the vaccine once the department receives a larger shipment.

“Schools will not have any share from this first batch yet because we do not want to create chaos by giving a few doses to one school and none to others,” Tran-Phu said.

**-more-**

Children 10 years and older will receive only one dose of the H1N1 vaccine, and children 9 years and below will need two doses of the vaccine, three to four weeks apart.

The Health Department will keep a portion of these intranasal vaccines available in its Immunization clinic to vaccinate healthy Health Department personnel and patients between the ages of 2 and 24 years from its various clinics.

Parental consent is required because the vaccine is not mandatory and patients will be given an [information sheet](#) on the vaccine.

The Health Department advises parents to check with private physicians to see if they are providing the H1N1 flu vaccines.