



## PUBLIC INFORMATION

ITEM NO. 3.

**DATE OF MEETING:** September 21, 2009

**REQUESTED BY:** Jack Griffith, Ph.D.

**SHORT TITLE:** Flu Clinic Update

**BACKGROUND:** North Carolina now has 56 counties and 97 “sentinel” sites reporting on the incidence of flu among state residents. The state health department recommends that all local health departments undertake to vaccinate as many people as possible for seasonal flu beginning in September. In that regard, the health department will hold “flu” clinics at the department in Burgaw starting on September 18<sup>th</sup>, from 8:30 to 11:00 am and 1:30 to 3:30 pm. Thereafter, we will hold “flu” clinics on Monday and Thursdays from 1:30-3:30; and on Friday’s from 8:30-11:00 am until vaccine is no longer available.

The health department will also provide seasonal flu clinics at sites throughout the county, starting on September 15<sup>th</sup> in Surf City, and concluding September 23<sup>rd</sup>, in Topsail Beach. Clinics will also be held at Pender Adult Services, Burgaw and Hampstead Senior Center on September 17<sup>th</sup> and 22<sup>nd</sup>, respectively.

We will also have our mobile health clinic visit the county communities of Canetuck (September 15<sup>th</sup>, 1-7 pm at the Community Center); Atkinson (September 16<sup>th</sup>, 9am-2pm at the Atkinson Minute Mart); Rocky Point (September 28<sup>th</sup>, 9am-2pm at the Rocky Point Food Lion); Maple Hill (September 29<sup>th</sup>, 1-7pm at the Maple Hill Resource Center); and Willard (September 30<sup>th</sup>, 9am-2pm at the Willard Outreach Center).

Through significant cooperation with the Pender Schools, the health department will offer for the first time, flu shots to children, faculty and staff in 15 county schools, starting on September 28<sup>th</sup>, and concluding on October 21<sup>st</sup>. Vaccination schedules have been published in local papers and are available on the health department’s web site.

Pandemic A (H1N1) illness in the North Carolina: The NC State Epidemiologist has reported to the National Centers for Disease Control (CDC) that the level of H1N1 in the state has increased to Widespread. In Pender we presently have 11 confirmed cases of H1N1. More confirmed cases of H1N1 are being diagnosed daily. Clearly, health providers in Pender County must be prepared to protect as many citizens as possible with H1N1 flu vaccinations in a timely fashion. In that regard the health department is working with physicians in the county to help protect the public with vaccinations; and the health department has also developed a listing of health professionals who may be willing to volunteer to work in H1N1 flu clinics after the vaccine becomes available. Additional information on H1N1 will be made available to you and the public as it becomes available to the health department staff.