



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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WASHTENAW COUNTY PUBLIC HEALTH RELEASES H1N1 SURVEY RESULTS “Got an Opinion About Swine Flu?” Over 900 Individuals Told Us!

YPSILANTI, Mich., September 17, 2010—The results of our local H1N1 (or swine flu) survey are now available. Washtenaw County Public Health offered the survey to gather community input about our local response to the H1N1 flu pandemic. The survey was available online and at participating community locations between February and June 2010. It was available in English and in Spanish. A total of 910 individuals and 34 organizations completed the survey. View a summary and full report at <http://publichealth.ewashtenaw.org>.

“I am sure that it is difficult to deal with something like H1N1. If you aren’t successful, people will be upset that you didn’t do more to get people vaccinated. If you are successful, people just assume that nothing would have happened anyway and it was just sensationalism...” – Survey Respondent.

Respondents were asked if they received local information about H1N1, if they had been vaccinated and why they opted to vaccinate or not to vaccinate. Respondents also had the opportunity to make general comments about the local H1N1 response. Many respondents recounted their individual experiences with H1N1 vaccination. Some offered praise and expressed satisfaction, while others had criticisms or recommendations. Many expressed frustration with the vaccine supply issues, which created severe shortages in Washtenaw County and elsewhere.

Overall, 44% of respondents reported that they received an H1N1 vaccination, and almost half of them (47%) received it from their health care provider or at a hospital. The primary reason respondents selected for receiving a vaccination was “to stay healthy.”

Key survey findings included:

- Vaccination rates varied by race, health insurance status and geography:
 - Respondents identifying themselves as African American/black were less likely to get vaccinated (26%) than respondents of other races (Caucasian/white 49%; Asian/Asian American 49% and Latino/Hispanic 48%).

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Key survey findings, continued:

- Among those who reported having health insurance, 46% were vaccinated. In comparison, only 28% of those who reported having no health insurance were vaccinated.
- Ann Arbor respondents were more likely to report vaccination (52%) than Ypsilanti respondents (35%).
- Vaccination rates did not vary by gender. Women and men reported nearly equal vaccination rates, with 44% of women and 45% of men reporting vaccination.
- The majority of respondents (61%) identified television as their preferred source of emergency health information.

Washtenaw County Public Health is using the results of the survey to review its emergency communication practices and emergency response plans. Public Health will continue expanding community partnerships and opportunities to receive timely news from the department. Current options include subscribing to an emergency only email list (email ringle@ewashtenaw.org) or signing up to receive text alerts via Nixle.com.

Flu season is just around the corner. This year, flu vaccine is recommended for everyone six months and older. Seasonal flu vaccinations are already available at some locations locally, and H1N1 is one of three flu strains included in this year's seasonal flu vaccine. The strains included in the seasonal vaccine are changed every year, according to what viruses are expected to circulate in a given year. H1N1 will likely circulate again this year – probably in combination with other strains. Washtenaw County Public Health plans to announce the dates of its public flu vaccination clinics next week.

Flu vaccination provides the best protection, but you can always reduce your chances of getting influenza or other communicable diseases by staying as healthy as possible and by practicing basic prevention. Eat well, exercise and rest. Wash your hands properly, cover your cough and stay away from others if you are ill.

For more information about Washtenaw County Public Health, please visit <http://publichealth.ewashtenaw.org> or call 734-544-6700.

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