

Dear Constituents:

Thank you for contacting me with regard to the pandemic influenza A/H1N1 virus. I appreciate hearing from you on this important issue and understand the concern this is causing.

The federal Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) began efforts to develop a vaccine against the pandemic influenza virus in early August. The first doses of this vaccine became available in mid-October. The vaccine supply is limited due to demand and the production capabilities of the approved manufacturers. As a result of vaccine production delays, the Commonwealth is not expected to receive as much vaccine by the end of October as earlier reported. Due to this limited supply, the CDC, along with the Pennsylvania Department of Health has developed a plan to maximize the impact of the vaccine by distributing doses to those most affected and where the disease is occurring.

The Pennsylvania Department of Health has been charged with ensuring that the H1N1 vaccine is delivered to as many in the recommended target populations as quickly as possible, with more vaccine available as the season progresses. The recommended target populations include individuals between the ages of six months and 24 years, household contacts and caregivers for children younger than six months of age, pregnant women, healthcare providers and emergency services personnel, and those under 65 with underlying health conditions. **Please note that there remain shortages with the vaccine for those in the targeted group, as well as the general public.**

While delays in vaccine production have occurred, the Pennsylvania Department of Health is placing orders as soon as the vaccine is allocated to ensure it reaches Pennsylvania residents as quickly as possible. In the meantime, the CDC recommends that people get vaccinated against seasonal influenza as soon as vaccines become available by their healthcare providers and in their communities. The CDC continues to allocate the vaccine as it is released by the manufacturers and based on information provided, eventually there will be enough vaccine for everyone who wants to receive it, including persons outside the priority groups.

To find an H1N1 vaccination site, people in the recommended target groups should contact their healthcare provider. If their provider does not plan to administer the vaccine, or if an individual does not have a healthcare provider, please call the Pennsylvania Department of Health at 1-877-PA HEALTH or visit www.H1N1inPA.com. Individuals are advised to stay in touch with their doctors or healthcare provider for updates on when the vaccine will be available in their area and may also contact their County Health Centers, school districts and local governments for information on where public health clinics are located and when they should expect to receive doses of the vaccine.

Centre County Health Center: 280 W. Hamilton Avenue, State College, 814-865-0932

Juniata County Health Center: 809 Market Street Extended, Port Royal, 717-527-4185


Mifflin County Health Center: 21 South Brown Street, Lewistown, 717-242-1452

Perry County Health Center: State Health Center, 153 Red Hill Rd, Newport, 717-567-2011

Union County Health Center: 260 Reitz Blvd., Suite 3, Lewisburg, 570-523-1124

Again, thank you for contacting me about this important matter. Please do not hesitate to contact me again on this or any other state-related matter.

Sincerely,



Senator Jake Corman