

# PORTAGE COUNTY COMBINED GENERAL HEALTH DISTRICT



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## Health department recaps H1N1 response for National Public Health Week

The H1N1 flu virus garnered the largest emergency public health response seen by our nation. Local portage county efforts led to nearly 20,000 direct vaccinations given by local health departments in Portage County. The following efforts helped to diminish a direct threat to the public's health.

- 74 School-based clinics were held during the school day and with minimal disruption to schools.
- Over 11,700 Portage County children were vaccinated in their school for free.
- Over 1,200 vaccinations were given at 24 daycares.
- High-risk and Open Community clinics held from November to January resulted in over 6,000 vaccinations with minimal wait time. In the smallest clinics space, Portage County rate of 100 people per 30 minutes at busy clinics.
- A governor's declaration allowed EMS paramedics and EMT-Intermediate staff to be trained in giving H1N1 flu vaccine. Locally, 94 EMS personnel were trained to help administer H1N1 vaccine in Portage County communities. Of that total, 75% assisted outside of their respective jurisdiction.

### *Costs*

The average cost for the Portage County local health departments to provide the vaccine to each person was \$11.04. Thirty-eight public health staff from Kent City, Ravenna City, and Portage County Health Departments worked jointly as a single health district. Staff logged 7,825 hours directly to H1N1 response efforts and provided services at 157 clinic locations, estimated to have cost \$313, 000. State as well as local public health departments across the country received federal emergency funds to cover the costs of H1N1 response. Local public health response would not have been possible without federal emergency grant money. In Portage County, it was the federal emergency grant as well as support from 65 local community agency partnerships that helped to carry out response plans.

### *Information and Education*

The Portage County H1N1 webpage received over 25,000 views from October 2009 through January 2010. The Portage County Health Department fielded 3,000 phone calls about H1N1 flu. A massive illness prevention and education campaign took place regarding the 3 C's: Clean Cover and Contain. 3 C's posters appeared on PARTA busses, in school and university settings, as well as local businesses and government buildings. The 3 C's poster, as well as community H1N1 power point presentations, press releases, and vaccine-related forms were made available through the H1N1 website, [www.co.portage.oh.us/h1n1.htm](http://www.co.portage.oh.us/h1n1.htm).

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