

# PORTAGE COUNTY LOCAL HEALTH DEPARTMENTS

## JOINT COMMAND TEAM

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Portage County Health Department  
Ravenna City Health Department  
Kent City Health Department

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### **Officials recommend getting H1N1 vaccine even if you've had flu-like symptoms**

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention recommend that all people in the high risk groups receive the H1N1 flu vaccine as soon as it's available, including those people who may have had flu-like symptoms. "The diagnosis of influenza is usually a clinical judgment, not testing, and many other infections can cause similar symptoms. Most people visiting their physician had been tested for flu, but not specifically for H1N1 flu. So unless the illness was confirmed with specific H1N1 testing which takes days to confirm, we recommend that people still receive the H1N1 vaccine. Even if a patient does have some immunity from previous illness, the vaccine will not cause any harm" said Dr. Angela DeJulius, Portage County Medical Director. "Eventually there will be enough vaccine for anyone who wants it, regardless of risk group."

Health officials continue to ask the following high-risk groups to get vaccinated now:

- Pregnant women
- Caretakers and household contacts of infants under 6 months old
- People 6 months old to 24 years old
- People 64 years old and younger who have chronic health conditions
- Health care and EMS with direct patient contact

Portage County Local Health Departments will hold a second clinic for the above-mentioned high risk groups this Saturday, November 21, 2009 from 10:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. at the Kent State Field House. The Field House is located at 2213 Summit Street in Kent.

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