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**Delaware County Announces Coordinated Response  
For Distribution of H1N1 Vaccine to School-Age Children**

Delaware County Council is partnering with the Delaware County Intermediate Unit, county school districts and hospitals to facilitate distribution of the H1N1 vaccine to one of the target groups, **school-age children**, as the vaccine becomes available through the Centers for Disease Control (CDC).

With guidance from County Council's Pandemic Preparedness team and the Departments of Intercommunity Health Coordination and Emergency Services, all partners are working in a collective effort to develop an efficient, appropriate process to get county children vaccinated.

County officials met with representatives of all 15 school districts, the Intermediate Unit executive director, hospital representatives and the Pennsylvania Department of Health to map out the plan to dispense the vaccine to K-12 students in public, private and parochial schools throughout Delaware County.

Delaware County has registered for 95,000 doses of H1N1 vaccine, which is more than sufficient to vaccinate all public, private and parochial school students in grades K-12 in the County. County officials have been advised not to anticipate that all doses will be received at one time.

The CDC is releasing limited amounts of the vaccine throughout the nation in phases over time.

Once vaccines are received in Delaware County, officials are prepared to distribute the vaccines through Points of Dispensing (PODs) that will be set up in each school district at varying times and dates.

County residents will be kept informed through their school districts and county government sources when vaccines will be made available for school-age children. (Parents of younger children (pre-K) are encouraged to contact their pediatricians. Pregnant women, who are also a priority group, are encouraged to contact their health care provider.)

The public is encouraged to be patient as the vaccine is being produced and distributed in stages. Priority groups will be targeted first. According to CDC guidelines, priority groups for H1N1 vaccination include: pregnant women, caregivers of children younger than 6 months of age; health care and emergency medical services personnel; persons between the ages of 6 months and 24 years; and people ages 25-64 who are at higher risk for novel H1N1 because of health disorders.

The first mass dispensing process in Delaware County is planned for school-age children.

People are invited to volunteer at their school district POD. They can contact their school district directly or register through Delco Alert, the county's emergency notification system available through the county Web site.

For up-to-date information on the H1N1 virus visit the following Web sites:

[www.flu.gov](http://www.flu.gov)  
[www.H1N1inpa.com](http://www.H1N1inpa.com)  
[www.co.delaware.pa.us](http://www.co.delaware.pa.us)