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PRESS RELEASE-For Immediate Release

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SCPHD Will Open Special H1N1 Clinics for Pregnant Women and High Risk Children

TWIN FALLS- South Central Public Health District (SCPHD) will be holding special H1N1 clinics to reach two of the highest H1N1 target groups: pregnant women and high risk children (children with documented care plans due to chronic health conditions).

The free clinic (by appointment only) is scheduled for October 29 from 9:30 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. at SCPHD offices in Twin Falls, Jerome, Rupert, Gooding, Burley, and Bellevue. To schedule an appointment, call 737-1137. This clinic is **by appointment only** and will be offered while free H1N1 immunization is available.

Production of the vaccine that protects against the H1N1 influenza virus is taking longer than expected at the federal level, which has led to smaller than expected amounts of vaccine in southern Idaho. SCPHD continues to get shipments of H1N1 flu vaccine every week and will eventually be able to serve everyone who wants to protect themselves against this new variety of the flu.

“We know people are anxious about when the vaccine will be available, and their concern is understandable as we hear about more people getting sick,” said Rene LeBlanc, SCPHD District Director. “As soon as we receive the limited amounts of vaccine, we are getting it to the people who need the most protection. But we want to encourage everyone that does not fall into one of the CDC priority groups to let those more at risk get the vaccine first.”

With the limited vaccine supply and the H1N1 virus in our communities, it is particularly important for people to slow the spread by staying home when they are sick. Coughing and

sneezing into a sleeve or tissue helps prevent contagious germs from becoming airborne and infecting others.

Most people recover from the flu without medical attention. They stay home and rest, drink plenty of fluids, take over-the-counter flu medicine, and reduce their fever with acetaminophen or ibuprofen. People with symptoms who believe they need medical attention should call the doctor's office before walking into a waiting room with a contagious illness.

To help protect themselves while waiting for the vaccine, people should wash their hands often, stay six feet away from anyone with respiratory symptoms, cover their coughs and sneezes, and sanitize living and work areas regularly.

For information on the H1N1 influenza virus, visit www.phd5.idaho.gov or www.flu.gov or call the SCPHD H1N1 toll-free hotline at 1-866-450-3594.

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