



# **NEWS RELEASE**

## **St. Charles County Government**

**Department of Community Health and the Environment**

*Gil Copley, Director*

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### **H1N1 Vaccination Opens to All**

**St. Charles County, Missouri** – Thanks to increases in vaccine supply, the state of Missouri has elected to lift restrictions on H1N1 vaccinations. Everyone, regardless of risk status, is now eligible to receive H1N1 vaccine.

“By working with our community health care partners, we have been able to vaccinate many people at high risk from H1N1 disease,” said Gil Copley, director of the St. Charles County Department of Community Health and the Environment. “We still encourage those at high risk to get vaccinated if they haven’t already, but now that vaccine supplies are growing, we can open it up to the rest of the population. Vaccination remains one of the most effective tools to fight the spread of the H1N1 flu virus.”

Copley also reminded residents who haven’t received their seasonal flu shot to get one as soon as possible. “Seasonal flu typically doesn’t peak in our community until January or February,” he added, “and the H1N1 shot will not protect you from the seasonal virus.”

For most people, the best place to obtain a flu vaccination is through their regular health care provider. Many pharmacies and retail outlets also offer vaccine. In addition, a number of public vaccination clinics are planned in the coming weeks. For a listing of clinic times and locations, log on to [www.FightTheFluMO.com](http://www.FightTheFluMO.com) and click on “Flu Shot Clinics” or call the Vaccine InfoLine toll-free at 1-877-358-4141.

While vaccination is important, Copley also urged residents to continue practicing good health and hygiene habits. “Everyone should continue to follow these common-sense tips: keep your hands clean, cover your coughs and sneezes, keep your distance from people who are sick, and if you get sick, stay home,” Copley said.

The St. Charles County Department of Community Health and the Environment is committed to the protection and enhancement of health and the quality of life for all members of our community. For more information, call (636) 949-7400 or visit [www.scchealth.org](http://www.scchealth.org).

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