FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

NOW is the time to be vaccinated against H1N1

DALTON (GA) JANUARY 12, 2010 – North Georgia Health District officials remind residents that NOW is the time to be vaccinated against the H1N1 flu.

Influenza is unpredictable and health officials do not know the likelihood of a future wave of H1N1 flu, but what is known is that the peak of the flu season is just around the corner and vaccination is the most important step in protecting against influenza.

Health departments in Cherokee, Fannin, Gilmer, Murray, Pickens and Whitfield Counties have H1N1 vaccine. The vaccine is free to the public; however, an administrative fee may be charged through Medicare, Medicaid, and all third party insurance including State Health Benefit plans for United Health Care and CIGNA.

The H1N1 flu is a serious disease. The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) estimates that between mid-April and November 14, 2009, 47 million people in the United States were infected with the 2009 H1N1 flu, more than 200,000 people were hospitalized, and over 9,800 people died.

Together, we can fight the flu.

People can protect themselves, their families and their communities by getting vaccinated against the H1N1 flu – residents are urged to come to the nearest health department for an H1N1 vaccination or call [county health department phone numbers are listed below] for more information. Also, call the H1N1 Hotline at 1-888-H1N1-INFO (1-888-4161-4636) or visit www.flu.gov and www.cdc.gov to learn more facts about the H1N1 flu.

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