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Free H1N1 Flu Shot Clinic at the SVHEC

The Southern Virginia Higher Education Center (SVHEC) is partnering with the Virginia Department of Health to provide a free H1N1 flu vaccination clinic to the public. The clinic will be held in the SVHEC's Center of Nursing Excellence on Thursday, February 11th from 8:30am to 7:30pm. Vaccinations will be for the 2009 H1N1 virus only, and will be available to anyone in the community.

Supplies of the vaccines to protect against the 2009 H1N1 virus are increasing and vaccination is now available to anyone who wants it. Dr. Charles Devine, Health Director for the Southside Health District said "We are still seeing cases of influenza caused by the 2009 H1N1 virus. The virus remains circulating within the community. This vaccine is the best way to protect against the 2009 H1N1 pandemic virus."

The Virginia Department of Health continues to encourage individuals to get the H1N1 vaccinations in order to develop immunity and protect our population from a potential third wave of disease. According to a Virginia Department of Health notice to health care providers, past flu epidemics have included an increase in infections as spring approaches, "History has demonstrated that during the 1957-58 influenza epidemic, vaccination efforts waned and there was significant mortality in the third wave of disease in February. The 1918-1919 pandemic also featured a third wave in February-March in Britain. Each of us through ongoing vaccination efforts can prevent this from being the case this year."

The Southside Health District's Health Department will be administering the flu shots for the February 11 clinic. To receive a free H1N1 flu shot, individuals must arrive at the SVHEC between 8:30am and 7:30pm. There is no need to pre-register.

The Center of Nursing Excellence is an initiative of the Southern Virginia Higher Education Center. For more information about the flu clinic visit www.svhed.org, email cindycrews@svhed.org or call 434-572-5568 and toll-free 1-800-283-0098.