



LaSalle County Health Department

News Releases 2009



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LaSalle County Health Department
717 Etna Road
Ottawa, IL 61350
815-433-3366

December 11, 2009

“LaSalle County Health Department to Begin Holding Public H1N1 Clinics”

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

FOR INFORMATION OR INTERVIEWS: contact Leslie Dougherty (ext. 225) pr Jenny Barrie (ext. 226)

Ottawa, IL-The LaSalle County Health Department has scheduled the following H1N1 clinics:

*Monday, December 14th, from 2-7pm, at the Streator Knights of Columbus Hall, located at 806

Oakley Ave., Streator

*Thursday, December 17th, from 2-7pm, at the Ottawa Knights of Columbus Hall, located at

401 W. Main St., Ottawa

*Monday, December 21st, from 2-7pm, at the Mendota Knights of Columbus Hall, located at

505 West 7th Ave., Mendota

The LaSalle County Health Department, in conjunction with Illinois Valley Community Hospital and the Hygienic Institute will also be holding a H1N1 clinic on:

*Wednesday, December 23rd, from 2-7pm, at Illinois Valley Community Hospital, located at 925

West St., Conference Room A, Peru

These clinics are now open to the **General Public**, meaning everyone is eligible to receive the vaccine. These clinics are **walk-in only** and **NO appointment** is necessary. The vaccine is free of charge. These clinics are based on vaccine availability and will be postponed and rescheduled if we do not have the vaccine.

For H1N1 clinic information, please visit the LaSalle County Health Department's website at www.lasallecounty.org/hd, or call 815-433-3366, ext. 235 or option 8.

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**LaSalle County Health Department
717 Etna Road
Ottawa, IL 61350**

815-433-3366

NOVEMBER 19, 2009

NEWS RELEASE

“GREAT AMERICAN SMOKEOUT”

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

FOR INFORMATION OR INTERVIEWS; contact 433-3366 Leslie Dougherty x225 or Jenny Barrie x226.

OTTAWA, IL -- The LaSalle County Health Department would like to announce that Thursday, November 19th is the Great American Smokeout. This year marks the 34th annual Great American Smokeout sponsored by the American Cancer Society (ACS) and celebrated the third Thursday each November. This annual event challenges smokers to quit for at least 1 day with the hopes that they will quit permanently.

The LaSalle County Health Department would like to encourage everyone to join in on the campaign against smoking, which is the most preventable cause of death in the United States today. Smoking is associated with increased risk for cancers of the mouth, nasal cavities, pharynx, larynx, esophagus, stomach, pancreas, liver, cervix, kidney, bladder, and myeloid leukemia. Over 440,000 deaths annually and \$193 billion in health-care costs and lost productivity in the U.S. are directly related to smoking, according to the ACS.

The Great American Smokeout is an upbeat effort to encourage smokers to give up cigarettes for 24 hours, if only to prove to themselves that they can. Quitting smoking has immediate and long-term benefits, including reduced risk for heart disease and certain cancers. For help in quitting you can contact the Illinois Department of Public Health's quit line at 1-866-QUIT-YES. Nonsmokers are encouraged to participate as well. By adopting a smoker you can give them the support they may need to help them be successful. Everyday thousands are leaving the pack behind. Now it is your turn to do the same.

For more information on how to quit smoking or for some quit tips please contact the LaSalle County Health Department at 433-3366 or 1 (800) 247-5243. Or visit our website at www.lasallecounty.org/hd.

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LaSalle County Health Department
717 Etna Road
Ottawa, IL 61350

815-433-3366

November 16, 2009

“Reminder: Two H1N1 Clinics Scheduled for this Week”

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

FOR INFORMATION OR INTERVIEWS: contact Leslie Dougherty (ext. 225) pr Jenny Barrie (ext. 226)

Ottawa, IL-As a reminder, the LaSalle County Health Department has scheduled the following H1N1 clinics this week:

*Tuesday, November 17, 2009, from 2-7pm, at the Streator Knights of Columbus, located at 806 Oakley Ave., Streator

*Thursday, November 19, 2009, from 2-7pm, at the Mendota Civic Center located at 1901 Tom Merwin Dr., Mendota

These clinics are **walk-in only** and **NO appointment** is necessary. These clinics are open to all residents, regardless of the town they live in. These clinics are based on vaccine availability and will be postponed and rescheduled if we do not have the vaccine.

People who may receive the vaccine at these clinics are those meeting the criteria for high risk as mandated by the Center for Disease Control (CDC). CDC priority groups include:

*Pregnant women

*Children ages 6 months to 24 years of age

*Caregivers for an infant under the age of 6 months

*Persons aged 25-64 with chronic health problems that put them at increased risk for complications

from influenza

*Healthcare workers

For H1N1 clinic information, please visit the LaSalle County Health Department's website at

www.lasallecounty.org/hd, or call 815-433-3366, ext. 235 or option 8.

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LaSalle County Health Department
717 Etna Road
Ottawa, IL 61350
815-433-3366

November 5, 2009

“Three Additional Clinics Scheduled”

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

FOR INFORMATION OR INTERVIEWS: contact Leslie Dougherty (ext. 225) pr Jenny Barrie (ext. 226)

Ottawa, IL-The LaSalle County Health Department has tentatively scheduled the following H1N1 clinics:

*Thursday, November 12, 2009, from 2-7pm, at the Ottawa Knights of Columbus, located at 401 W. Main St., Ottawa

*Tuesday, November 17, 2009, from 2-7pm, at the Streator Knights of Columbus, located at 806 Oakley Ave., Streator

*Thursday, November 19, 2009, from 2-7pm, at the Mendota Civic Center located at 1901 Tom Merwin Dr., Mendota

These clinics are **walk-in only** and **NO appointment** is necessary. These clinics are open to all residents, regardless of the town they live in. These clinics are based on vaccine availability and will be postponed and rescheduled if we do not have the vaccine.

People who may receive the vaccine at these clinics are those meeting the criteria for high risk as mandated by the Center for Disease Control (CDC). CDC priority groups include:

*Pregnant women

*Children ages 6 months to 24 years of age

*Caregivers for an infant under the age of 6 months

*Persons aged 25-64 with chronic health problems that put them at increased risk for complications

from influenza

*Healthcare workers

For H1N1 clinic information, please visit the LaSalle County Health Department's website at www.lasallecounty.org/hd, or call 815-433-3366, ext. 235 or option 8.

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**LaSalle County Health Department
717 Etna Road
Ottawa, IL 61350**

815-433-3366

November 3, 2009

“H1N1 Additional Clinics Scheduled”

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

FOR INFORMATION OR INTERVIEWS; contact Leslie Dougherty (ext. 225) or Jenny Barrie (ext. 226)

Ottawa, IL –The LaSalle County Health Department held its first H1N1 clinic with approximately 1,646 doses of vaccine given. We have scheduled the following additional clinics at the Health Department by appointment only on:

*On Wednesday, November 4th from 9am-4pm, **By Appointment Only** a clinic will be held for those individuals who are under the age of 64 and medically fragile.

*On Friday, November 6th from 9am-4pm, **By Appointment Only** a clinic for Healthcare/Dental Workers.

These clinics will be held at the LaSalle County Health Department, 717 Etna Road. Due to the continuing construction on Etna Road, and to minimize traffic congestion, appointments will be taken for this clinic. Please call the Health Department during normal business hours (8am-4:30pm) at 815-433-3366, ext. 242 or press option 8. Additional clinics are being scheduled based on vaccine supply. Thank you for your patience and understanding.

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**LaSalle County Health Department
717 Etna Road
Ottawa, IL 61350**

815-433-3366

November 2, 2009

“Medically Fragile Clinic on November 4, 2009, By Appointment Only”

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

FOR INFORMATION OR INTERVIEWS; contact Leslie Dougherty (ext. 225) or Jenny Barrie (ext. 226)

Ottawa, IL – The LaSalle County Health Department will be holding a H1N1 Flu clinic by appointment only for those individuals who are under the age of 64 and medically fragile on Wednesday, November 4th from 9am-4pm. This clinic is for those specific individuals who would have serious health consequences if made to wait in long lines amongst people who may not be healthy. Examples of some conditions that would be included, but are not limited to are as follows:

*Currently undergoing treatment of cancer

*Chronic suppressed immune system such as HIV or an organ transplant

*Chronic medically fragile condition that requires closely monitored medical management

*People that require medical equipment that would have difficulty accessing the clinic such as ventilator patients

This clinic will be by APPOINTMENT ONLY! Please call the LaSalle County Health Department at 815-433-3366, ext. 242, or press option 8.

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LaSalle County Health Department
717 Etna Road
Ottawa, IL 61350

815-433-3366

October 29, 2009

HIGH IMPORTANCE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

“H1N1 Clinic Location to Change”

FOR INFORMATION AND INTERVIEWS; contact Leslie Dougherty (ext. 225) or Jenny Barrie (ext. 226)

Ottawa, IL – Due to the unexpected increase in heavy construction that is moving closer to the Health Department, congestion and increasing traffic, as well as parking issues, The LaSalle County Health Department feels a responsibility to move the location of their H1N1 flu clinic. After observing the media coverage of the surrounding area H1N1 clinics, we feel it is in the public’s best interest and SAFETY to move the clinic to an area that can better accommodate LaSalle County residents.

The clinic will now be held at **Illinois Valley Community College, 815 N. Orlando Smith Ave, Oglesby**. The date and time of the clinic **will remain the same**. The clinic will be held on **Monday, November 2nd from 3-7pm**. We apologize for any inconvenience this may cause, however we feel it is a must for the safety of those attending the clinic. It is strongly advised people dress for the weather, as there will be an extended wait outdoors.

The Health Department will have 2,500 doses of vaccine available at the clinic. We recommend this vaccine to the following priority groups:

*Pregnant women

*Anyone who cares for children younger than 6 months of age

*Young people between the age of 6 months and 24 years of age

*People younger than 64 years of age with chronic medical conditions such as asthma, diabetes, or heart disease.

*Healthcare workers

If you are a pregnant women, you may want to check with your OBGYN provider to see if they have or will be getting vaccine available in their office. We are in the process of reaching out to many obstetricians for their help in vaccinating this high-risk priority group. If you do not fall into the high-risk priority groups, please do not attend this clinic. We will be scheduling additional H1N1 flu clinics, as vaccine supply allows, for the general public.

Please note there is **NO** appointment necessary, this will be first come, first serve. No Doctor's orders are required. Please be advised the consent forms necessary to receive the vaccine are available on the LaSalle County Health Department's website at www.lasallecounty.org/hd, under H1N1 Clinic Information. The consent forms will also be available at the clinic, however, to make the necessary paperwork process easier, completing the consent form prior to coming is strongly recommended. Thank you for your understanding.

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**LaSalle County Health Department
717 Etna Road
Ottawa, IL 61350**

815-433-3366

October 28, 2009

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

“Seasonal Flu Clinic Closing Shortly”

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

FOR INFORMATION OR INTERVIEWS: contact Jenny Barrie (ext. 226) or Leslie Dougherty (ext. 225)

Ottawa, IL - The LaSalle County Health Department is finishing up their flu clinic. Our clinic will be closing shortly. If you were planning on coming this afternoon to receive your flu vaccine, please do not make the trip. We regret any inconvenience this may have caused. Thank you for your patience and cooperation during this flu season.

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**LaSalle County Health Department
717 Etna Road
Ottawa, IL 61350**

815-433-3366

October 28, 2009

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

“LaSalle County Health Department Is Out Of Adult Injectable Seasonal Flu Vaccine”

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

FOR INFORMATION OR INTERVIEWS: contact Jenny Barrie (ext. 226) or Leslie Dougherty (ext. 225)

Ottawa, IL - The LaSalle County Health Department is out of the adult injectable form of the seasonal flu vaccine. We still have the adult mist form, which is available for healthy adults who are under the age of 49. We still have seasonal flu vaccine for children in the injectable and mist form. We encourage anyone still needing vaccine to come as soon as possible. We appreciate your patience and cooperation during this flu season.

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**LaSalle County Health Department
717 Etna Road
Ottawa, IL 61350**

815-433-3366

October 28, 2009

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

“LaSalle County Health Department Running Low on Seasonal Flu”

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

FOR INFORMATION OR INTERVIEWS: contact Jenny Barrie (ext. 226) or Leslie Dougherty (ext. 225)

Ottawa, IL - The LaSalle County Health Department's seasonal flu clinic has been extremely busy this morning. Therefore, we are running low on seasonal flu vaccine. We anticipate we may have to close the clinic early, however we will remain open until we have utilized all our vaccine. We appreciate your patience and cooperation during this flu season.

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LaSalle County Health Department
717 Etna Road
Ottawa, IL 61350

815-433-3366

October 27, 2009

“LaSalle County Health Department To Hold H1N1 Clinic for High-Priority Risk Groups”

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

FOR INFORMATION AND INTERVIEWS; contact Leslie Dougherty (ext. 225) or Jenny Barrie (ext. 226)

Ottawa, IL – The LaSalle County Health Department has received an initial quantity of H1N1 flu vaccine and will hold a clinic on Monday, November 2nd from 3-7pm. The clinic will be held at the LaSalle County Health Department, 717 Etna Road, Ottawa. The vaccine will be offered to all LaSalle County residents who fall into the high-risk priority groups and will be administered free of charge.

The LaSalle County Health Department submitted its initial order to the Illinois Department of Public Health for 61,000 doses. To date, we have received a little over 2,000 doses, therefore, it is of high importance and our intention to make sure the priority groups are served first. People who are not part of the priority group do not need to receive the H1N1 vaccine at this time. Everyone who wants to receive the H1N1 vaccine will have the opportunity to do so as the vaccine becomes more readily available.

Because of the limited nationwide supply of H1N1 flu vaccine the LaSalle County Health Department recommends this vaccine to the following priority groups:

- **Pregnant women**
- **Anyone who cares for children younger than 6 months of age.**
- **Young people between the age of 6 months and 24 years of age.**
- **People younger than 64 years of age with chronic medical conditions such as asthma, diabetes, or heart disease.**
- **Healthcare workers**

If you presently have a cold or fever you can not receive the vaccine at this time. If you are experiencing flu-like symptoms, please do not attend this clinic and stay home if you are sick.

Health Department staff will be offering two kinds of H1N1 vaccine, the injectable form and the nasal mist. The nasal mist form is only for individuals in the priority group aged 2-24, with no underlying medical conditions. Please be advised the consent forms necessary to receive the vaccine are available on the LaSalle County Health Department's website, under H1N1 Clinic Information. The consent forms will also be available at the clinic, however, to make the necessary paperwork process easier, completing the consent form prior to coming is recommended.

Please also note, there will be limited routine services at the Health Department during the clinic. Another consideration to keep in mind, is the heavy construction we are currently experiencing on Etna Road. Please be alert, follow the traffic signs, entrances and exits will be clearly marked.

It is our intention, to schedule and hold additional H1N1 clinics for high-risk priority groups and school-based clinics as vaccine supply allows. Our plan is to hold clinics for the general public after the high risk priority population has been served. It is our understanding and hope that vaccine will be more readily available in the coming weeks. Please visit the LaSalle County Health Department website for the most up-to-date information, or call the Health Department at 815-433-3366, and press option 8.

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LaSalle County Health Department
717 Etna Rd.
Ottawa, IL 61350
(815) 433-3366

September 11, 2009

NEWS RELEASE

“Seventeenth Annual Food Service Seminar”

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

FOR INFORMATION OR INTERVIEWS: contact Jenny Barrie (ext. 226) or Leslie Dougherty (ext. 225) at 815-433-3366

Ottawa, IL – The LaSalle County Health Department will be sponsoring their Seventeenth Annual Food Service Seminar on September 14, 2009. The seminar will be held at Pitstick Pavilion, Rt. 23, Ottawa. There is no cost for the seminar and everyone is welcome to attend.

Registration is from 8:00 a.m. to 8:30 a.m. The seminar will begin at 8:30 a.m. and will conclude at approximately 12:00 p.m. The speakers, from the Illinois Department of Public Health, include Bob Durham who will present information on labeling, Patricia Welch who will discuss emergency procedures in the event of a fire, and Jamie Burns who will discuss people styles at work.

September is **National Food Safety Education Month®** and the theme this year is “Food Safety Myth Busters.” For more information on food safety, visit www.foodsafety.gov or www.lasallecounty.org/hd.

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**LASALLE COUNTY HEALTH DEPARTMENT
717 ETNA ROAD
OTTAWA, IL 61350
433-3366**

September 10, 2009

NEWS RELEASE

“LaSalle County Health Department’s Seasonal Flu Clinics to Begin in September”

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

FOR INFORMATION OR INTERVIEWS; contact Leslie Dougherty at 433-3366 x225 or Jenny Barrie x226.

OTTAWA, IL – The LaSalle County Health Department is urging everyone 6 months and older this year be vaccinated against seasonal flu. The Center for Disease Control (CDC) is recommending all residents be vaccinated against seasonal flu as a first line of defense against the H1N1 virus. While the seasonal flu vaccine will not protect against the H1N1 virus, it will protect against people becoming ill with both influenza viruses at one time.

The LaSalle County Health Department has received its shipment of seasonal influenza (flu) vaccine and will sponsor several vaccination clinics throughout the county. The fee for a flu vaccination this year will be \$25. Billing will be provided for Medicare part B and Medicaid eligible clients who receive the vaccination.

A Doctor’s order is **NO** longer required for children under 18, but all children must be accompanied by a parent or guardian.

The flu vaccine, which is recommended every year, does not always protect a person from getting the flu. It is 70 to 90 percent effective in preventing influenza among healthy adults, but for those who still get the flu, the symptoms are milder than in those who have not been immunized. To lessen your chances of developing the flu, adults and children need to practice good hygiene measures. Teach the importance of covering your mouth when coughing or sneezing, and educate children about hand to mucous membrane transmission. One of the best ways to protect yourself and your children is through frequent and thorough hand washing. We also recommend you avoid exposing your children to high-risk areas, such as heavily trafficked areas. Parents are also encouraged to keep children exhibiting “flu-like” symptoms home and out of childcare and school to minimize transmission.

This is also a good time for certain individuals to get a pneumonia vaccination. They must check with their physicians to see if one is recommended. Pneumococcal disease caused by bacteria (Streptococcus pneumonia) which can cause serious infections. These infections include pneumonia and meningitis and can be prevented by getting a “Pneumonia shot”. People who should get a pneumonia shot

include:

- All persons aged 65 and older
- Adults and children with chronic illnesses of heart, lung, kidney, or liver
- Diabetics
- All persons with a weak immune system caused by HIV, cancer, organ transplant, immunosuppressive medicine such as corticosteroids, or splenectomy

A pneumonia shot is usually necessary only once for those over the age of 65.

For those under 65 with a chronic illness it is recommended that it be repeated once after five years. People should get the shot even if they have had a pneumonia illness in the past.

The pneumonia vaccine will be available at all of the flu clinic sites. There will be a \$35 fee for the shot. Medicare part B and Medicaid will be billed for eligible clients. A receipt can be given upon request for those who would like to submit it to their insurance company. For more information on influenza you can call 1-815-433-3366 and press the flu option or you may visit our website at www.lasallecounty.org/hd.

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LaSalle County Health Department
717 Etna Road Ottawa, IL 61350
(815)433-3366 or (800)247-5243

No Appointment Needed

Influenza Vaccine

Cost: \$25.00

Medicare will be billed for persons who receive the Influenza vaccine and show Medicare Part B eligibility.

NO Doctor's order is required.

Children 6 months through 17 years must be accompanied by a parent or guardian.

Pneumonia Vaccine

Cost: \$35.00

Pneumonia vaccine will be available at each clinic.

NO Doctor's order is required.

Medicare will be billed for persons who receive the Pneumonia vaccine and show Medicare Part B eligibility

All paying clients, a receipt is available upon request for submission to private insurances.

OTTA WA AREA:

September 30th, 2009 - 1:30pm-6:00pm

Knights of Columbus
401 W. Main, Ottawa

STREATOR AREA:

September 28, 2009 - 2:00pm-4:30pm

Knights of Columbus
800 Oakley Ave., Streator

October 28th, 2009 - 9:00am-4:00pm

LaSalle County Health Dept.
717 E. Etna Road, Ottawa

SANDWICH AREA:

September 23, 2009 - 2:30pm-4:30pm

Wildwood Communities
1 Birch Drive, Sandwich

MARSEILLES AREA:

September 22, 2009 - 8:00am-11:00am

Marseilles Union Hall
142 Lincoln St., Marseilles

SENECA AREA:

September 22, 2009 - 2:00pm-5:00pm

Seneca City Hall
340 N. Cash, Seneca, IL.

**LaSalle County Health Department
717 Etna Road
Ottawa, IL 61350
815-433-3366**

September 3, 2009

News Release

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

FOR MORE INFORMATION; contact Leslie Dougherty (ext. 225) or Jenny Barrie (ext.226) at 815-433-3366.

“Blue Jay Tests Positive for West Nile virus in LaSalle County”

OTTAWA, IL – The LaSalle County Health Department reported that a blue jay found August 25th in Streator has tested positive for West Nile virus by the Illinois Department of Agriculture Laboratory in Galesburg. This is the second bird to test positive for West Nile in the county. A crow, found in Lostant, tested positive in June. The health department will continue to test birds and mosquitoes through mid-October.

The best way to prevent West Nile disease or any other mosquito-borne illness is to reduce the number of mosquitoes around your home and to take personal precautions to avoid mosquito bites. Precautions include:

- Avoid being outdoors when mosquitoes are most active, especially between dusk and dawn. Use prevention methods whenever mosquitoes are present.
- When outdoors, wear shoes and socks, long pants and a long-sleeved shirt, and apply insect repellent that includes DEET, picaridin or oil of lemon eucalyptus according to label instructions. Consult a physician before using repellents on infants.
- Make sure doors and windows have tight-fitting screens. Repair or replace screens that have tears or other openings. Try to keep doors and windows shut, especially at night.
- Eliminate all sources of standing water that can support mosquito breeding, including water in bird baths, ponds, flowerpots, wading pools, old tires and any other receptacles. In communities where there are organized mosquito control programs, contact your municipal government to report areas of stagnant water in roadside ditches, flooded yards and similar locations that may produce mosquitoes.

The LaSalle County Health Department would like to remind the general public to report any dead

crows, blue jays, robins, or potential mosquito breeding sites to the Health Department at 815-433-3366. A complete listing of West Nile virus statistics for LaSalle County is available on the Health Department's web site at www.lasallecounty.org/hd . A state-wide listing is available at the Illinois Department of Public Health's web site at www.idph.state.il.us. Go to the West Nile virus page and select "2009" under surveillance. In addition, the Illinois Department of Public Health has activated the West Nile virus hotline again this year. The number is 866-369-9710 (toll-free) and is available Monday through Friday from 8am-5pm.

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LaSalle County Health Department
717 Etna Road
Ottawa, IL 61350
815-433-3366

August 28, 2009

News Release

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

FOR MORE INFORMATION; contact Leslie Dougherty (ext.225) or Jenny Barrie (ext.226) at 815-433-3366.

“LaSalle County Health Department Changes Reporting of H1N1 Influenza Activity”

OTTAWA, IL - The LaSalle County Health Department will be changing the reporting system for H1N1 influenza on their website. The changes reflect and follow a new Web site system for reporting H1N1 flu activity in Illinois currently used by the Illinois Department of Public Health (IDPH). The LaSalle County Health Department will no longer report confirmed cases of H1N1 influenza on their website, however, will be reporting confirmed hospitalizations and deaths related to H1N1 in the county. The direct link to the Health Department’s reporting page is: www.lasallecounty.org/hd/h1n1/index.htm.

Please be aware that H1N1 is still circulating throughout the county. Infected people may be able to infect others 1 day before symptoms develop and up to 7 days after becoming sick. It is important that everyone be vigilant and take a shared responsibility to minimize the risk of spreading the virus. By staying home when you are sick, covering your cough and sneeze, and washing your hands frequently, you are protecting yourself, your family and your community as well as controlling the spread of the virus. To stay healthy, follow the three C’s:

CLEAN – properly wash your hands frequently

COVER – cover your cough and sneeze

CONTAIN – contain your germs by staying home if you are sick

The following websites, www.lasallecounty.org/hd, will be kept up-to-date with information from the CDC www.cdc.gov/h1n1flu and Illinois Department of Public Health www.idph.state.il.us/h1n1_flu/index.htm or call the Health Department at 815-433-3366, and press option 8 for flu.

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**LaSalle County Health Department
717 Etna Road
Ottawa, IL 6350
433-3366**

July 1, 2009

NEWS RELEASE

“LaSalle County Health Department Encourages Vigilance”

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

FOR INFORMATION OR INTERVIEWS; contact Leslie Dougherty at 433-3366 x225 or Jenny Barrie x226.

OTTAWA, IL – LaSalle County Health Department would like to remind everyone as summer activities and family gatherings are getting underway it is important to remember that H1N1 influenza continues to circulate in our communities. To date, LaSalle County has 8 lab confirmed cases of H1N1, with an age range of 1-49 years of age. The 8 cases have been geographically widespread throughout LaSalle County. Health Department staff also suspects the high probability of undiagnosed cases, due to H1N1 influenza testing guidelines. The test is reserved for acutely ill or hospitalized patients.

While we understand the public concern for additional information on the individuals, it is the policy of LaSalle County Health Department to maintain the confidentiality of information that would identify individual patients. The identity of any individual of a communicable disease, such as H1N1 influenza virus, is bound by State and Federal laws.

Over the past month, as our cases have increased we have documented similar trends to what is being observed nationally. The virus continues to impact mostly younger people, so far it has not caused significant illness and death in the elderly as is normally seen with seasonal influenza. Infected people may be able to infect others 1 day before symptoms develop and up to 7 days after becoming sick. It is important everyone be vigilant and take a shared responsibility to minimize the risk of spreading the virus.

Most people infected with the H1N1 Influenza virus so far have experienced regular flu symptoms such as fever, cough, sore throat and body aches. A significant number of people have reported vomiting and diarrhea. Anyone experiencing severe flu-like symptoms, such as difficulty breathing, pain or pressure in the chest or abdomen, sudden dizziness or confusion, should contact a medical professional right away.

Some people may be at greater risk of serious complications related to novel H1N1 infection and illness. People who are at high risk of serious flu related complications include pregnant women, children

younger than 5 years-old, people with chronic medical conditions and people 65-years and older. Examples of chronic medical conditions include diabetes, asthma, heart disease and lung disease. Individuals with underlying conditions should contact their physician at the onset of illness and not wait for severe illness. Antiviral medications are most effective if given in the first 24 to 48 hours and there is the possibility antivirals can be prescribed to individuals at risk as a preventive measure.

Now is the time for all residents to take personal responsibility for the protection of themselves and their families. Personal protective measures would include:

- Staying informed by visiting our website at www.lasallecounty.org/hd
- Frequent hand washing and use of hand sanitizers
- Not touching your eyes, nose or mouth
- Maintaining good health habits

If you or a member of your family becomes ill you need to take a shared responsibility to minimize the risk of spreading this respiratory disease. To prevent the spread of flu, take the following precautions:

- CLEAN – Wash your hands.
- COVER – your cough and sneeze
- CONTAIN- contain your germs- STAY HOME IF YOU ARE SICK.
- CALL- your doctor.

For further information of H1N1 influenza visit the LaSalle County Health Department's website at www.lasallecounty.org/hd or call 815-433-3366 and choose option 8.

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LaSalle County Health Department
717 Etna Road
Ottawa, IL 61350
815-433-3366

June 22, 2009

News Release

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

FOR MORE INFORMATION; contact Leslie Dougherty (ext.225) or Jenny Barrie (ext.226) at 815-433-3366.

“LaSalle County Health Department to Begin Reporting Additional Cases of H1N1 Influenza on a Weekly Basis”

OTTAWA, IL - The LaSalle County Health Department will begin updating additional cases of H1N1 influenza on a weekly basis. Beginning on Tuesday June 23rd, please check www.lasallecounty.org/hd/H1N1/index.htm, for any additional confirmed cases. The website will be updated every Tuesday at 11:00 a.m. until further notice. In the event the Health Department receives notification of a death due to H1N1, a press release will be issued at that time. If you have any questions, please contact Leslie Dougherty (ext.225) or Jenny Barrie (ext.226) at 815-433-3366.

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LaSalle County Health Department
717 Etna Road
Ottawa, IL 61350
815-433-3366

June 19, 2009

News Release

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

FOR MORE INFORMATION; contact Leslie Dougherty (ext.225) or Jenny Barrie (ext.226) at 815-433-3366.

“LaSalle County Notified of First Death Due to H1N1 Influenza”

OTTAWA, IL - LaSalle County Health Department is deeply saddened to announce we have received notification of our first death due to the H1N1 influenza virus. The Illinois Department of Public Health (IDPH) has confirmed that a LaSalle County resident has been identified as a case of H1N1 influenza. According to lab results, the LaSalle County resident is a 18 year old female who had died from complications of the H1N1 influenza virus. The woman had underlying medical conditions which contributed to her death. Federal privacy restrictions prohibit the release of any additional information.

The World Health Organization (WHO) recently raised their warning level declaring a pandemic for the first time in over 40 years. In response, the LaSalle County Health Department will continue to work closely with IDPH and the Centers for Disease Control (CDC). Health Department staff are actively monitoring and responding to H1N1 cases. Staying informed is the best way to protect yourself and your family.

The CDC has determined that the H1N1 influenza is contagious and is spread from human to human. Spread of H1N1 influenza is thought to be happening in the same way that seasonal flu spreads. Flu viruses are spread mainly from person to person through coughing or sneezing of people with influenza. Sometimes people become infected by touching something with flu viruses on it and then touching their mouth or nose.

The symptoms of H1N1 influenza are similar to the symptoms of regular seasonal flu. If you have symptoms such as fever (100.4 or higher), cough, sore throat, body aches, headache, chills and fatigue, stay home and limit contact with others to avoid infecting them. A significant number of people have reported vomiting and diarrhea. Anyone experiencing severe flu-like symptoms should contact a medical

professional right away.

Like seasonal influenza, some people may be at greater risk of serious complications related to novel H1N1 infection and illness. People who are at high risk of serious seasonal flu-related complications include pregnant women, children younger than 5 years-old, people with chronic medical conditions and people 65-years and older. Examples of chronic medical conditions include diabetes, asthma, heart disease and lung disease. Individuals with underlying conditions should contact their physician at the onset of illness and not wait for severe illness. Antiviral medications are most effective if given in the first 24 to 48 hours and there is the possibility antivirals can be prescribed to individuals at risk as a preventive measure.

People who become sick with a flu-like illness should stay home for seven days after symptoms begin or until they have been symptom-free for 24 hours, whichever is longer. This is to keep from infecting others and spreading the virus further.

The LaSalle County Health Department would like to remind the community that it is important for everyone to be vigilant and take a shared responsibility to minimize the risk of spreading this respiratory disease and to protect themselves. To prevent the spread of flu, take the following precautions:

CLEAN - wash your hands

COVER - your cough and sneeze

CONTAIN - contain your germs - stay home if you are sick.

The following websites, www.lasallecounty.org/np/hd, will be kept up-to-date with information from the CDC www.cdc.gov/h1n1flu and Illinois Department of Public Health www.idph.state.il.us/swine_flu/index.htm. People who have questions about H1N1 influenza can call the Illinois flu hotline at 866-848-2094 for English and 866-241-2138 for Spanish. The hotline currently operates from 8:30 a.m. to 5 p.m. daily.

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LaSalle County Health Department
717 Etna Road
Ottawa, IL 61350
815-433-3366

June 18, 2009

News Release

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

FOR MORE INFORMATION; contact Leslie Dougherty (ext.225) or Jenny Barrie (ext.226) at 815-433-3366.

“LaSalle County Notified of Fourth Confirmed Case of H1N1 Influenza”

OTTAWA, IL - LaSalle County Health Department has received notification from the Illinois Department of Public Health (IDPH) that another LaSalle County resident has been identified as a confirmed case of H1N1 influenza. According to lab results, the LaSalle County resident is a 10 year old female. Federal privacy restrictions prohibit the release of any additional information.

The World Health Organization (WHO) recently raised their warning level declaring a pandemic for the first time in over 40 years. In response, the LaSalle County Health Department will continue to work closely with IDPH and the Centers for Disease Control (CDC). Health Department staff are actively monitoring and responding to H1N1 cases. Staying informed is the best way to protect yourself and your family.

The CDC has determined that the H1N1 influenza is contagious and is spread from human to human. Spread of H1N1 influenza is thought to be happening in the same way that seasonal flu spreads. Flu viruses are spread mainly from person to person through coughing or sneezing of people with influenza. Sometimes people become infected by touching something with flu viruses on it and then touching their mouth or nose.

The symptoms of H1N1 influenza are similar to the symptoms of regular seasonal flu. If you have symptoms such as fever (100.4 or higher), cough, sore throat, body aches, headache, chills and fatigue, stay home and limit contact with others to avoid infecting them. A significant number of people have reported vomiting and diarrhea. Anyone experiencing severe flu-like symptoms should contact a medical professional right away.

Like seasonal influenza, some people may be at greater risk of serious complications related to novel H1N1 infection and illness. People who are at high risk of serious seasonal flu-related complications

include pregnant women, children younger than 5 years-old, people with chronic medical conditions and people 65-years and older. Examples of chronic medical conditions include diabetes, asthma, heart disease and lung disease. Individuals with underlying conditions should contact their physician at the onset of illness and not wait for severe illness. Antiviral medications are most effective if given in the first 24 to 48 hours and there is the possibility antivirals can be prescribed to individuals at risk as a preventive measure.

People who become sick with a flu-like illness should stay home for seven days after symptoms begin or until they have been symptom-free for 24 hours, whichever is longer. This is to keep from infecting others and spreading the virus further.

The LaSalle County Health Department would like to remind the community that it is important for everyone to be vigilant and take a shared responsibility to minimize the risk of spreading this respiratory disease and to protect themselves. To prevent the spread of flu, take the following precautions:

CLEAN - wash your hands

COVER - your cough and sneeze

CONTAIN - contain your germs - stay home if you are sick.

The following websites, www.lasallecounty.org/np/hd, will be kept up-to-date with information from the CDC www.cdc.gov/h1n1flu and Illinois Department of Public Health www.idph.state.il.us/swine_flu/index.htm. People who have questions about H1N1 influenza can call the Illinois flu hotline at 866-848-2094 for English and 866-241-2138 for Spanish. The hotline currently operates from 8:30 a.m. to 5 p.m. daily.

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LaSalle County Health Department
717 Etna Road
Ottawa, IL 61350
815-433-3366

June 16, 2009

News Release

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

FOR MORE INFORMATION; contact Leslie Dougherty or Jenny Barrie at 815-433-3366.

“LaSalle County Notified of Third Confirmed Case of H1N1 Influenza”

OTTAWA, IL - LaSalle County Health Department has received notification that another LaSalle County resident has been identified as a confirmed case of H1N1 influenza. According to lab results, the LaSalle County resident is a 35 year old male. Federal privacy restrictions prohibit the release of any additional information.

The World Health Organization (WHO) recently raised their warning level declaring a pandemic for the first time in over 40 years. In response, the LaSalle County Health Department will continue to work closely with IDPH and the Centers for Disease Control (CDC). Health Department staff are actively monitoring and responding to H1N1 cases. Staying informed is the best way to protect yourself and your family.

The CDC has determined that the H1N1 influenza is contagious and is spread from human to human. Spread of H1N1 influenza is thought to be happening in the same way that seasonal flu spreads. Flu viruses are spread mainly from person to person through coughing or sneezing of people with influenza. Sometimes people become infected by touching something with flu viruses on it and then touching their mouth or nose.

The symptoms of H1N1 influenza are similar to the symptoms of regular seasonal flu. If you have symptoms such as fever (100.4 or higher), cough, sore throat, body aches, headache, chills and fatigue, stay home and limit contact with others to avoid infecting them. Be sure to call and discuss your symptoms with your healthcare provider.

Like seasonal influenza, some people may be at greater risk of serious complications related to novel H1N1 infection and illness. People who are at high risk of serious seasonal flu-related complications include pregnant women, children younger than 5 years-old, people with chronic medical conditions and people 65-years and older. Examples of chronic medical conditions include diabetes, asthma, heart disease and lung disease.

The LaSalle County Health Department would like to remind the community that it is important for

everyone to be vigilant and take a shared responsibility to minimize the risk of spreading this respiratory disease and to protect themselves. To prevent the spread of flu, take the following precautions:

CLEAN - wash your hands

COVER - your cough and sneeze

CONTAIN - contain your germs - stay home if you are sick.

The following websites, www.lasallecounty.org/hd, will be kept up-to-date with information from the CDC www.cdc.gov/h1n1flu and Illinois Department of Public Health

www.idph.state.il.us/swine_flu/index.htm. People who have questions about H1N1 influenza can call the Illinois flu hotline at 866-848-2094 for English and 866-241-2138 for Spanish. The hotline currently operates from 8:30 a.m. to 5 p.m. daily.

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LASALLE COUNTY HEALTH DEPARTMENT
717 ETNA ROAD
OTTAWA, IL 61350
433-3366

JUNE 16, 2009

N E W S R E L E A S E

“NATIONAL HIV TESTING DAY”

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

Ottawa, IL – National Testing Day for LaSalle County will be on Thursday, June 25th. We will be offering the 20 minute Ora Quick rapid HIV test to the public as part of National HIV Testing Day. This is the 15th annual HIV Testing Day campaign. The goal of the campaign is to identify people who are HIV positive and don't know it so they can access treatment. Appointments will not be necessary and all walk-ins will be welcome from 8:30 to 4:00.

There is an estimated quarter of a million Americans who are infected with HIV but are not aware of it. While we have made tremendous strides in treating HIV disease and related infections, those advances mean little to someone who doesn't know they are infected. If you have ever had unprotected sex with someone who uses injectable drugs, if you have ever shared needles, if you are a man who has ever had sex with another man, or if you have other factors that put you at risk for HIV infection, you should consider getting an HIV test.

The LaSalle County Health Department offers free anonymous or confidential HIV counseling and testing. If you are not available on June 25th and would like to schedule an appointment to be tested or learn more information about HIV, contact Andy at 433-3366 or 1-800-247-5243. You can also access our website at www.lasallecounty.org/hd.

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LaSalle County Health Department
717 Etna Road
Ottawa, IL 61350
815-433-3366

June 5, 2009

News Release

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

FOR MORE INFORMATION; contact Leslie Dougherty or Jenny Barrie at 815-433-3366.

“LaSalle County Notified of Second Confirmed Case of H1N1 Flu (Swine Flu)”

OTTAWA, IL - LaSalle County Health Department has received notification from the Illinois Department of Public Health (IDPH) that a LaSalle County resident has been identified as a confirmed case of H1N1 flu (swine flu). According to lab results, the LaSalle County resident is a 49 year old female. Federal privacy restrictions prohibit the release of any additional information.

The LaSalle County Health Department is working closely with IDPH and the Centers for Disease Control (CDC) to monitor and keep area residents informed about this outbreak. Staying informed is the best way to protect yourself and your family.

The CDC has determined that the H1N1 flu is contagious and is spread from human to human. Spread of H1N1 flu is thought to be happening in the same way that seasonal flu spreads. Flu viruses are spread mainly from person to person through coughing or sneezing of people with influenza. Sometimes people become infected by touching something with flu viruses on it and then touching their mouth or nose. Infected people may be able to infect others beginning 1 day before symptoms develop and up to 7 or more days after becoming sick. That means you may be able to pass on the flu to someone else before you know you are sick, as well as while you are sick.

The symptoms of H1N1 flu in people are similar to the symptoms of regular human flu and include fever, cough, sore throat, body aches, headache, chills, and fatigue. Some people have reported diarrhea and vomiting associated with H1N1 flu.

Public health officials recommend people who have flu-like symptoms, fever with a cough or sore throat, should stay home for seven days after the onset of illness or at least 24 hours after the symptoms go away, whichever is longer. People with symptoms who wish to seek medical care should contact their

health care provider by phone before going to a clinic, physician's office or hospital. If someone is having difficulty breathing or shortness of breath, or are believed to be severely ill, they should seek immediate medical attention.

The LaSalle County Health Department recommends the following common sense precautions to avoid getting sick or, if sick, infecting others:

- Cover your nose and mouth with a tissue when you cough or sneeze. If you don't have a tissue, cough or sneeze into your arm.
- Wash your hands often with soap and water – especially after you cough and sneeze. You can also use alcohol-based hand cleaners.
- Avoid touching your eyes, nose or mouth – that's how germs are spread.
- If you get sick – stay home from work or school and limit your contact with other people to avoid infecting them. Parents should follow these same recommendations for their children.

The following websites, www.lasallecounty.org/hd, will be kept up-to-date with information from the CDC www.cdc.gov/h1n1flu and Illinois Department of Public Health www.idph.state.il.us/swine_flu/index.htm. People who have questions about H1N1 flu can call the Illinois flu hotline at 866-848-2094 for English and 866-241-2138 for Spanish. The hotline currently operates from 8:30 a.m. to 5 p.m. daily.

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**LaSalle County Health Department
717 Etna Road
Ottawa, IL 61350
815-433-3366**

June 5, 2009

News Release

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

FOR MORE INFORMATION; contact Jenny Barrie or Leslie Dougherty at 815-433-3366.

“Crow Tests Positive for West Nile virus in LaSalle County”

OTTAWA, IL – The LaSalle County Health Department reported that a crow found June 1st in Lostant has tested positive for West Nile virus by the Illinois Department of Agriculture Laboratory in Galesburg. This is the first documented West Nile virus activity in the county for 2009.

The LaSalle County Health Department is also testing mosquitoes, again this year. Mosquitoes are tested for West Nile virus and St Louis encephalitis. The mosquito collection and testing equipment was purchased with grant money. Also, with the grant money the health department was able to purchase a large quantity of mosquito larvicide. Larvicide is used to treat potential mosquito breeding sites, and was distributed to licensed mosquito control applicators from local municipalities and villages throughout the county.

The best way to prevent West Nile disease or any other mosquito-borne illness is to reduce the number of mosquitoes around your home and to take personal precautions to avoid mosquito bites. Precautions include:

- Avoid being outdoors when mosquitoes are most active, especially between dusk and dawn. Use prevention methods whenever mosquitoes are present.
- When outdoors, wear shoes and socks, long pants and a long-sleeved shirt, and apply insect repellent that includes DEET, picaridin or oil of lemon eucalyptus according to label instructions. Consult a physician before using repellents on infants.
- Make sure doors and windows have tight-fitting screens. Repair or replace screens that have tears or other openings. Try to keep doors and windows shut, especially at night.

- Eliminate all sources of standing water that can support mosquito breeding, including water in bird baths, ponds, flowerpots, wading pools, old tires and any other receptacles. In communities where there are organized mosquito control programs, contact your municipal government to report areas of stagnant water in roadside ditches, flooded yards and similar locations that may produce mosquitoes.

The LaSalle County Health Department would like to remind the general public to report any dead crows, blue jays, robins, or potential mosquito breeding sites to the Health Department at 815-433-3366.

A complete listing of West Nile virus statistics for LaSalle County is available on the Health Department's web site at www.lasallecounty.org/hd . A state-wide listing is available at the Illinois Department of Public Health's web site at www.idph.state.il.us. Go to the West Nile virus page and select "2009" under surveillance. In addition, the Illinois Department of Public Health has activated the West Nile virus hotline again this year. The number is 866-369-9710 (toll-free) and is available Monday through Friday from 8am-5pm.

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**LaSalle County Health Department
717 Etna Road
Ottawa, IL 61350
815-433-3366**

June 3, 2009

News Release

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

FOR MORE INFORMATION; contact Leslie Dougherty or Jenny Barrie at 815-433-3366.

“LaSalle County Notified of First Confirmed Case of H1N1 Flu (Swine Flu)”

OTTAWA, IL - LaSalle County Health Department has received notification from the Illinois Department of Public Health (IDPH) that a LaSalle County resident has been identified as a confirmed case of H1N1 flu (swine flu). According to lab results, the LaSalle County resident is a 22 year old female. Federal privacy restrictions prohibit the release of any additional information.

The LaSalle County Health Department is working closely with IDPH and the Centers for Disease Control (CDC) to monitor and keep area residents informed about this outbreak. Staying informed is the best way to protect yourself and your family.

The CDC has determined that the H1N1 flu is contagious and is spread from human to human. Spread of H1N1 flu is thought to be happening in the same way that seasonal flu spreads. Flu viruses are spread mainly from person to person through coughing or sneezing of people with influenza. Sometimes people become infected by touching something with flu viruses on it and then touching their mouth or nose. Infected people may be able to infect others beginning 1 day before symptoms develop and up to 7 or more days after becoming sick. That means you may be able to pass on the flu to someone else before you know you are sick, as well as while you are sick.

The symptoms of H1N1 flu in people are similar to the symptoms of regular human flu and include fever, cough, sore throat, body aches, headache, chills, and fatigue. Some people have reported diarrhea and vomiting associated with H1N1 flu.

Public health officials recommend people who have flu-like symptoms, fever with a cough or sore throat, should stay home for seven days after the onset of illness or at least 24 hours after the symptoms go away, whichever is longer. People with symptoms who wish to seek medical care should contact their health care provider by phone before going to a clinic, physician's office or hospital. If someone is having difficulty breathing or shortness of breath, or are believed to be severely ill, they should seek immediate medical attention.

The LaSalle County Health Department recommends the following common sense precautions to

avoid getting sick or, if sick, infecting others:

- Cover your nose and mouth with a tissue when you cough or sneeze. If you don't have a tissue, cough or sneeze into your arm.
- Wash your hands often with soap and water – especially after you cough and sneeze. You can also use alcohol-based hand cleaners.
- Avoid touching your eyes, nose or mouth – that's how germs are spread.
- If you get sick – stay home from work or school and limit your contact with other people to avoid infecting them. Parents should follow these same recommendations for their children.

The following websites, www.lasallecounty.org/hd, will be kept up-to-date with information from the CDC www.cdc.gov/h1n1flu and Illinois Department of Public Health www.idph.state.il.us/swine_flu/index.htm. People who have questions about H1N1 flu can call the Illinois flu hotline at 866-848-2094 for English and 866-241-2138 for Spanish. The hotline currently operates from 8:30 a.m. to 5 p.m. daily.

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LaSalle County Health Department
717 Etna Road
Ottawa, IL 61350
815-433-3366

April 29, 2009

News Release

“LaSalle County Health Department Begins Dead Bird Surveillance”

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

FOR INFORMATION OR INTERVIEWS; contact Jenny Barrie or Leslie Dougherty at 433-3366.

Ottawa, IL – The LaSalle County Health Department will begin collecting dead birds on May 1, 2009 and will continue this process through October 15, 2009. Dead crows, blue jays, pigeons, and robins are important sentinels for early detection of West Nile virus activity. During the past seven years, West Nile virus activity has been documented throughout LaSalle County. LaSalle County citizens should report any deceased crow, blue jay, pigeon, or robin to the Environmental Division at 815-433-3366.

Birds submitted for testing should be “eligible birds” that have no obvious cause of death such as being found crushed in a roadway and most likely killed by a motor vehicle, or birds killed by a gunshot. Birds submitted should be believed to be dead for less than 48 hours. Birds should only be submitted if they have not been damaged by scavenging animals and are not decomposed. Decomposed animals can be recognized as having a strong odor present, eyes deflated or dried, maggots present or bloated from decomposition gases.

The following information may be useful in helping to distinguishing crows from other birds with black feathers:

Crows can be confused with other birds with black feathers such as starlings, grackles, blackbirds and cowbirds. Adult crows are larger, about 17-21 inches in length, while juvenile crows are about 10 inches in length. Adult crows are all black including feathers, beak, legs, and feet. Juvenile crows have brownish-black feathers. The crow’s nostrils are covered with bristles.

Grackles are 11 inches to 13 inches long, also black, smaller than crows but larger than robins. The head of a grackle has a purple or green iridescent sheen. The rest of the body is black or brown-black. The eyes are yellow. They can also be distinguished from crows because their tails are V-shaped and tail feathers are nearly as long as the body.

Health Department staff is also getting ready to begin testing mosquitoes, the vector for West Nile virus and St. Louis encephalitis, again this year. The mosquito collection and testing equipment was

purchased with grant money. The Health Department was also able to use the grant money to purchase a large quantity of mosquito larvicide. Larvicide is used to treat potential mosquito breeding sites, and will be distributed to licensed mosquito control applicators from local municipalities and villages throughout the county.

Also, during the spring and summer months, Health Department staff extend outreach efforts to all city, municipal, village, and township officials in the county. Information packets will be distributed to local hospitals, medical centers, nursing homes, pharmacies, veterinary clinics, pet shelters, campgrounds, daycares, libraries, and pool supply companies.

For additional information on West Nile virus, please contact the LaSalle County Health Department at 815-433-3366 or visit our website at www.lasallecounty.org/hd.

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**LASALLE COUNTY HEALTH DEPARTMENT
717 ETNA ROAD
OTTAWA, IL 61350**

433-3366

April 1, 2009

NEWS RELEASE

"Larvicide 1-Hour Training"

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

FOR INFORMATION OR INTERVIEWS; contact Jenny Barrie or Leslie Dougherty at 433-3366

OTTAWA, IL – The Bureau and Putnam County Health Department in conjunction with the Illinois Department of Public Health, and the LaSalle County Health Department are offering a 1-hour larvicide training Tuesday, April 14, 2009, from 10am to 12pm in the conference room at the Bureau County Health Department.

The Illinois Department of Agriculture (IDA) Rule allows application of a pre-packaged solid mosquito larvicide by persons who attend a 1-hour training seminar.

Please register by April 8, 2009.

THIS SEMINAR IS FREE.

If you would like to attend, please contact the Bureau County Health Department at 815-872-5091, extension 210, and a registration form can be mailed or faxed.

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**LASALLE COUNTY HEALTH DEPARTMENT
717 ETNA ROAD
OTTAWA, IL 61350**

433-3366

April 1, 2009

NEWS RELEASE

"LaSalle County Health Department Celebrates National Public Health Week"

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

FOR INFORMATION OR INTERVIEWS; contact Jenny Barrie or Leslie Dougherty at 433-3366.

OTTAWA, IL - The American Public Health Association has announced National Public Health Week will be observed April 6-12th, 2009. The theme of this year's National Public Health Week is "Building the Foundation for A Healthy America". For more information regarding Public Health Week, please visit www.nphw.org. The LaSalle County Health Department would like to remind the public that blood pressure screenings are available Monday-Friday at the Health Department on a walk-in basis from 8:30am-4:00pm. Health Department staff is also encouraging the public to pick up educational materials focusing on a variety of health topics, which will be available in the lobby.

The LaSalle County Health Department was created in November of 1986 with the passage of a referendum by the voters of LaSalle County. In 1987, the Health Department began offering programs in three areas: environmental health, personal health, and health education. Programs available at the Health Department focus on the prevention of the spread of disease and food borne illness, elimination of potentially harmful environmental situations, protection of groundwater from contamination, prevention of injuries, promotion of healthy behaviors, preparedness to respond to bioterrorism issues, and assurance of access to quality health services. For further questions and additional information, please contact the LaSalle County Health Department at 815-433-3366 or 1-800-247-5243. The department's website can be accessed at www.lasallecounty.org/hd, and contains beneficial health information.

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**LaSalle County Health Department
717 Etna Road
Ottawa, IL 61350**

815-433-3366

February 19, 2009

NEWS RELEASE

“LaSalle County Health Department to Begin Issuing Citations For Non-Compliance of the Smoke-Free Illinois Act”

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

FOR INFORMATION OR INTERVIEWS; contact Jenny Barrie or Leslie Dougherty at 815-433-3366

OTTAWA, IL- On January 1, 2008, the State of Illinois enacted the Smoke-Free Illinois Act. The law prohibits smoking in all public places and places of employment. The original intent behind the law was to pass rules to clarify the enforcement of the Act. After a year of LaSalle County trying to enforce the Act without guidance, the State has now passed amendments to the Smoke-Free Illinois Act. The amended Act was signed by Governor Pat Quinn on February 4, 2009, and provides guidance on the implementation and enforcement of the Smoke-Free Illinois Act.

The LaSalle County Health Department believes the changes will allow for the law to be enforced more adequately. The amendments to the Act clarify when fines can be issued, who can be fined, and allows for an appeal process for those who have been cited as being in violation of the Act. According to Ted Pumo, Director of Environmental Health, “numerous foodservice establishments and businesses in the county have embraced the Smoke-Free Illinois Act and have followed compliance guidelines. However, there are some establishments that still do not believe the law applies to them and refuse to comply. We are hopeful that the recently enacted amendments will finally give us the needed authority to further insure compliance with the act.”

Fines can be assessed for any “active smoking” within the establishment or workplace. Fines will be assessed to the owner or manager in charge as follows:

First Offense: \$250

Second Offense \$500

Each additional Offense within 1 year \$2500

Fines will be assessed to patrons of establishments as follows:

First Offense: \$100

Each Subsequent Offense: \$250

The Health Department is currently waiting for citations to be printed then citations will begin to be issued. Health Department staff anticipates citations being ready within 2-3 weeks. The citations will outline the procedure for appealing the fine.

Complaints can still be registered by calling a toll-free complaint line at 1-866-973-4646 or by going on-line to the Smoke-Free Illinois website at www.smoke-free.illinois.gov. For more information on Smoke-Free Illinois, sign requirements, or tips on smoking cessation, please contact LaSalle County Health Department at 815-433-3366 or visit our website at www.lasallecounty.org/hd.

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LASALLE COUNTY HEALTH DEPARTMENT
717 ETNA ROAD
OTTAWA, IL 61350
433-3366
February 10, 2009

“ZOSTAVAX (Shingles Vaccine) AVAILABLE”

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

FOR INFORMATION OR INTERVIEWS; contact Leslie Dougherty at 433-3366.

Ottawa, IL – The LaSalle County Health Department would like to inform everyone that we now offer the Zostavax (Shingles) vaccine for persons 60 years and older. Shingles is a painful skin rash, often with blisters. It is also called Herpes Zoster. A shingles rash usually appears on one side of the face or body and lasts 2 to 4 weeks. Its main symptom is pain, which can be quite severe. Other symptoms of shingles can include fever, headache, chills and upset stomach. A persons risk for getting shingles begins to rise around age 50

Zostavax is recommended for use in people 60 years and older because this age group accounts for approximately half of all shingle cases in the United States. The vaccine prevents shingles in about half of the people who receive it and can also reduce the pain associated with shingles. The cost of the vaccine is \$170. Medicare part D may cover a portion of the cost for those who have it. Please call 433-3366 or 800-247-5243 for more information or to make an appointment. You can also visit our website at www.lasallecounty.org/hd

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