



News Release
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Harmons, Smith's and Walgreens to Give H1N1 Shots in SL County

Local pharmacies step forward to partner with health department efforts

(Salt Lake County) – In an effort to increase H1N1 vaccination access points to the public, the Salt Lake Valley Health Department (SLVHD) has partnered with three area retail pharmacy chains. Beginning this week, all Harmons Grocery, Smith's Food & Drug and Walgreens pharmacy locations **in Salt Lake County** will be offering H1N1 flu shots on a limited basis (*see attached info for individual pharmacy details*).

Walgreens will begin taking walk-in customers on Thursday, November 5th. Both Smith's Food & Drug and Harmons Grocery Store pharmacies will begin scheduling vaccination appointments also on Thursday.

“The health department is very pleased to have these three area retailers – Harmons, Smith's and Walgreens – step forward to help in our county-wide efforts to vaccinate as many people as quickly as possible,” said Gary Edwards, Executive Director for SLVHD. “This collaboration will provide an initial total of 10,000 vaccinations and will increase vaccination access points by 50 locations around Salt Lake County.”

Each of the 50 pharmacy locations will receive an initial shipment of 200 doses (a total of 10,000 individual vaccinations). By law, pharmacies are authorized to vaccinate people ages 13 years old and above. For the H1N1 vaccine, they must also vaccinate only individuals that fall within the CDC priority groups. These groups are:

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- Pregnant women
- People age 13 to 24 years old
- Health care and emergency medical personnel with direct patient contact
- People who live with or care for babies under 6 months of age
- People age 13 through 64 years old with chronic underlying conditions such as asthma and diabetes

Because H1N1 influenza vaccine is provided at no cost to pharmacies, the public will not be charged for the vaccine itself. However, there will be a small charge for the administration of the vaccine. Insurance companies may cover this cost.

Vaccination hours may vary among pharmacies so people are advised to call their local pharmacy in advance to set an appointment or learn pharmacy-specific information such as vaccination hours and applicable administration fees.

Participating pharmacy locations are available on the SLVHD website at www.slvhealth.org.

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