



City of Meriden Public Health Volunteer Newsletter

Fall 2009

➤ **Summer Update: Pandemic Influenza Tabletop Exercise**

➤ **Where are we now?**

(Click on the [BLUE](#) Links below)

City of Meriden:

<http://www.cityofmeriden.org/>

State of Connecticut Dept. of Health:

<http://www.dph.state.ct.us/>

Federal Government:

Centers for Disease Control:

<http://www.cdc.gov/>

Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA)

<http://www.fema.gov/>

US Department of Health and Human Services

<http://www.pandemicflu.gov/>

Private Organizations:

American Red Cross

<http://www.redcross.org/>

Salvation Army

<http://www.salvationarmyusa.org/>

**350 Public Health Volunteers
are needed in Meriden!**

(Current number of volunteers 150)

Please forward this invitation to your family,
friends, neighbors, etc.

[Click Here to Register as a Volunteer.](#)

Thoughts from the Director of Health

Update

On July 29th the Meriden Health Department, Board of Education and Meriden Office of Emergency Communications conducted a Pandemic Influenza Tabletop Exercise. The exercise identified gaps in coordination between departments, and increased the understanding of roles and responsibilities of all participants. Participants also reviewed and refined existing pandemic flu emergency response plans.

In the exercise, the participants discussed a unified approach so school could continue to instruct, the health department could continue to promote good public health practices and the City's Office of Emergency Communications could continue to provide both reliable and timely emergency communications.

H1N1 Flu

In accordance with the state H1N1 vaccination distribution plan, the initial shipment of vaccine will be given to healthy children between the ages of 2 and 4, who are at greater risk for severe illness if they contract the H1N1 virus. The first round of vaccine is also being made available to vaccinate caregivers and household contacts of children (less than 6 months old) who are 49 years of age or younger. The current vaccine is a nasal spray and 2 doses (4 weeks apart) will be needed for children under the age of 10.

Residents are encouraged to get their seasonal flu shot, as well as the H1N1 vaccination as it becomes available.

Seasonal and H1N1 influenza information can be found on our website, www.meridenhealth.com. Residents can also call the CT Department of Public Health H1N1 Influenza Hotline at 1-800-830-9426. The public can call Monday-Friday, 7am-7pm.

Thank you again for Volunteering!