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Governor

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News Release

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Volunteers Needed To Help With Countywide Vaccinations *- Countywide H1N1 Vaccination Planned -*

Fort Myers, FL – The Lee County Health Department has partnered with United Way 2-1-1 to assist residents that want to volunteer in the community effort against H1N1 (Swine Flu). For those residents that want to sign-up to be a volunteer they can dial 2-1-1 or visit www.LeeEOC.com

“This partnership with the United Way 2-1-1 will be very beneficial and crucial in our volunteer recruiting efforts. To accommodate the number of people that need to be vaccinated in Lee County, we need equal to the amount of volunteers used after Hurricane Charley. This project is unlike anything Lee County has ever seen. We truly need your help as a volunteer and are confident that with the support of this community, we can do it” said Judith A. Hartner, M.D., M.P.H., M.P.A., Director of the Lee County Health Department.

For the public’s convenience, vaccinations will be given at local high schools throughout the county and over 2,000 volunteers are needed. Anyone can volunteer. Both medically trained and non-medical volunteers are needed. Your skills will be matched to the job that’s best for you. Example volunteer jobs include: directing people as they arrive and depart, registering patients, data entry, and stocking supplies.

To sign up to be a volunteer, dial 2-1-1, download an application at www.LeeEOC.com (located under the Breaking News section) or pick one up at your local library. The application can be submitted directly online, or you can fax or mail it (information located on the application form).

After you have signed up, one of our volunteer coordinators will contact you to discuss the next orientation session and to determine when and where you will volunteer.

Because the Lee County Health Department is committed to meeting the needs of the public, H1N1 clinics will be open during the week and on Saturdays. For this reason, we need a large pool of volunteers so all slots can be filled.

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For more information on influenza activity there are a number of resources available such as the Florida Department of Health toll-free number which provides public health information and updates on H1N1 Swine flu. The information line is available from 8 a.m. to 8 p.m. EDT, seven days a week. Information is available in English, Spanish and Creole. The Florida Flu Information Line is 1-877-352-3581.

For web-based information please visit any of the following websites:

Lee County Health Department, www.leechd.com

Florida Department of Health, <http://www.doh.state.fl.us/DEMO/php/FluInfo.htm>

My Safe Florida, www.myflusafety.com

The Centers for Disease Prevention and Control, <http://www.cdc.gov/h1n1flu/>

The World Health Organization, (WHO), <http://www.who.int/en/>

Flu.gov, <http://www.flu.gov/>

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