



Charlie Crist  
Governor

Ana M. Viamonte Ros, M.D., M.P.H..  
State Surgeon General

---

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE  
January 11, 2010

CONTACT: Cassie Garber  
850.833.9233 x 2162 | Cell: 850.420.2198

**January 10-16, 2010  
National Influenza Vaccination Week**

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) has declared January 10-16 as **National Influenza Vaccination Week** (NIVW). This weeklong event highlights the importance of continuing flu vaccinations. One of the many goals for NIVW is to engage at-risk audiences who are: not yet vaccinated, hesitant about vaccination, or unsure about where to get vaccinated.

"People who do not get vaccinated are taking two risks. They are placing themselves at risk for the flu, and, if they do get sick, they are also placing their community at risk for the flu," says Dr. Karen Chapman, Director of the Okaloosa County Health Department. "Influenza can be especially serious for pregnant women, babies, children, and for people having certain chronic medical conditions that put them at a higher risk of flu-related complications."

Pregnant women and new mothers are among those at a higher risk of complications. Vaccinations can potentially provide protection to infants who cannot be vaccinated. The H1N1 vaccine is available (and highly recommended) to **everyone 6 months of age and older**.

H1N1 vaccination clinics are being held at the Okaloosa County Health Department locations (Fort Walton Beach and Crestview.) The H1N1 vaccinations are FREE at the Health Department, and appointments are not necessary. For more information on H1N1 and on Okaloosa County's free community-based vaccination clinics, visit [www.HealthyOkaloosa.com](http://www.HealthyOkaloosa.com), or [www.MyFluSafety.com](http://www.MyFluSafety.com).

###