



# Columbia County Department of Health

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For Immediate Release

The Columbia County Health Department staff joined by the Columbia-Greene Community College staff and security, Columbia County Sheriff's Department, Columbia County Emergency Services, and Fire Police conducted a Mass Dispensing Exercise to test the capacity of the Health Department to dispense a large amount of the H1N1 influenza vaccine to the county population. The exercise was held at the Columbia Greene Community College on December 5, 2009; approximately 900 individuals received the H1N1 flu vaccine. Nancy Winch Public Health Director for the Health Department said "overall the POD went very well, I would like to thank all the individuals who assisted and we are pleased with the number of vaccines administered." "There is always something to improve on each time we exercise our plans." added Ms Winch. The health department staff will now meet to go over the observations made and to review recommendations for improvements to make any changes as appropriate.

The NYSDOH has announced that now is the time to expand access to the vaccine to those not in the priority groups. It is important to vaccinate as many people as possible.

The Columbia County Health Department is having an H1N1 flu vaccine clinic at 325 Columbia Street in Hudson on Wednesday December 16, 2009 from 8am-12pm and then 1pm-4pm. Please call 828-3358 to let us know if you plan to come to the clinic so that we can better prepare for the needs of the community.