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NEWS RELEASE

Oct. 7, 2009

Contact: UM Curry Health Center, 406-243-2122.

H1N1 NASAL SPRAY VACCINE GOES TO STUDENTS IN UM RESIDENCE HALLS

MISSOULA —

University of Montana students residing in residence halls on campus will soon be receiving the live attenuated influenza vaccine (LAIV), also known as the nasal spray vaccine, for 2009 H1N1 influenza.

The Missoula City-County Health Department announced Oct. 6 that it expects to receive 600 to 1,000 doses of the nasal spray vaccine, the first to be rolled off the production line. The nasal spray vaccine is different from the injectible vaccine, which should arrive in Missoula in a week or two. In particular, it is different because it cannot be used for people at high risk for influenza complications or for the youngest and older age groups.

With the full support of the Health Emergency Advisory Team, it was decided that the best use of this earliest supply of the vaccine would be to vaccinate students in UM residence halls to reduce the risk of an outbreak on campus and to reserve the injectible vaccine for high-risk individuals when it becomes available.

Faculty and students from UM's School of Pharmacy, working in conjunction with the Curry Health Center, will visit residence halls in the near future to vaccinate eligible students. To be eligible, students must be 24 or younger and have no chronic health conditions.

The Health Emergency Advisory Team includes representatives from the Missoula City-County Health Department, Community Medical Center, St. Patrick Hospital and Health

Sciences Center, Western Montana Clinic, Curry Health Center and area physicians specializing in infectious disease.

UM regularly updates the University 2009 H1N1 Information Web site at <http://www.umt.edu/urelations/info/H1N1.aspx>. For more information, visit the Curry Health Center Web site at <http://life.umt.edu/curry>.

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