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PRESS RELEASE FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Seasonal flu shots on hold after 4,000 vaccines distributed *Plans for H1N1 vaccine continue to form*

With a record number of area residents getting vaccinated for the seasonal flu this September, vaccine supplies at Kossuth Regional Health Center and Community Health are dwindling. Previously scheduled walk in flu vaccine clinics at KRHC are now cancelled due to lack of available vaccine.

At this time the Algona Community Schools seasonal flu vaccination clinics will proceed as planned for September 29 and 30 and October 1 and 2.

“We had a phenomenal response from the public this year regarding seasonal flu vaccine,” said Dixie Meyer of KRHC Community Health. “We ordered more vaccine than ever before and successfully vaccinated more people in three weeks than we usually give immunizations to in three months.”

Community health nurses offered a clinic in every school in Kossuth County, with Algona Public Schools being their final stop. They also offered several community clinics, including one at the hospital’s 60th birthday party. The KRHC clinic also offered walk in evening clinics that were well attended.

For those still wanting to get a flu shot, three upcoming clinics are available in Algona. Kmart is offering flu clinics for people age 18 and older on October 6 from 9 a.m. to 7 p.m. and October 8 from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. HyVee is offering a clinic on October 1 from 3 to 7 p.m. Children can receive the vaccine at this clinic with a doctor’s prescription. Community Health also has a limited number of Vaccine For Children doses for uninsured or underinsured children that normally receive their vaccine through Community Health.

KRHC is assessing the need for more seasonal flu vaccine, but details regarding when it would arrive and how much might be available are unknown.

“Many of the counties surrounding us received limited quantities of seasonal flu vaccine or none at all. We were very fortunate to receive enough seasonal flu vaccine to deliver more than 4,000 flu shots thus far and getting additional doses may prove to be a difficult process,” Meyer said. “With the H1N1 vaccine expected to come out in late October, we may need to change our focus slightly and refer people still needing their seasonal vaccine to alternative venues. If we are able to get more vaccine, we’ll notify people through the local media, the KRHC website and our flu hotline at 515-295-4451.”