January 06, 2010

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News Release

For Immediate Release

H1N1 Vaccinations Protect Thousands of Students

A successful H1N1 vaccination program has provided the best form of protection from the H1N1 virus for thousands of students in Springfield Public Schools. Information from Springfield Public Schools was reported on December 18, 2009 stating that 7,036 students or 30% of the student population received the H1N1 vaccine through the first round of H1N1 clinics. All Springfield Public Schools were included in this vaccine effort and provided the best form of protection for children at a location that was easily accessible for students. The Springfield Public Schools vaccination program made students and parents aware that vaccine would be available and parent permission forms were obtained from each student participating in the program.

School vaccination programs are vital to protecting children from this virus as 59% of flu cases have been reported in children between the ages of 2-14.

Vaccination remains the best form of protection against the H1N1 virus. The Springfield-Greene County Health Department continues to encourage everyone to get vaccinated. For more information about how to get vaccinated, please call 417-864-1166 or visit www.springfieldmo.gov/health.

For more information, contact: Katie Towns-Jeter, Public Information Specialist, 417-864-1149 (office), 417-536-0785 (cell) or, by email: ktownsjeter@springfieldmo.gov.