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CLAREMONT < Valley Regional Hospital Occupational Health Manager
Jean

Strawbridge said the hospital is ³fully prepared for H1N1.²

“We have a plan currently being administered to monitor symptoms of ill staff and adjust staffing levels as needed,² Strawbridge said. “There are guidelines for when staff should not report to work because of illness and when a mask at work is necessary, and there are policies in place to guide staff on protection procedures while caring for H1N1 patients.”

VRH Community Relations Director Kelly Murphy said that each of the Hospital’s individual locations put in their own order for the vaccine with the state.

The hospital is slated to receive vaccinations today, which will be used on its clinical staff that has direct patient interaction, Murphy said.

Second in line at VRH to get the vaccine will be staff that has patient interaction but that is not as prevalent or frequent as those on the first tier of vaccinations.

Murphy said she does not believe the hospital will offer vaccines to the public.

Connecticut Valley Home Care has ordered the vaccine for its own patients that fit the criteria, said CVHC Director Elaine Bussey.

“We will follow the state’s tiered plan as to who to vaccinate at what time,” Bussey said.

CVHC will also participate in clinics run by the Greater Sullivan County Public Health Network.

Jessica McAuliff, Greater Sullivan County Public Health Network coordinator

said the Granite State is expecting to receive 40,000 doses of the vaccine.

“The public health network is prepared to place their first order of the injection for the H1N1 vaccine about two weeks from now for early November,”

McAuliff said, adding that the first batch ordered will be based on how many

clinics will be hosted by schools in the region.

The public health network also oversees parts of Merrimack County.

The network is working to arrange staffing resources for school clinics throughout the region that plan to offer immunizations to their students.

Children ages six months to 10 years will get two shots one month apart,

McAuliff said, and all others will need only one.

The in-school vaccines will not be mandatory.

“The schools will be sending home permission slips to parents asking if the students can receive the vaccines at the school in the nurse’s office,”

McAuliff said.

McAuliff also recommends for people to get the seasonal flu vaccine from their doctor’s office.

The network will hold H1N1 vaccination clinics for emergency medical technicians and firefighters in the 15-town region Nov. 4 and 5 and plans to hold four public clinics in December.

Visit www.sullivancountynh.gov/publichealth or www.flu.gov for more information.

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