



October 15, 2009

Dear Foothills Gateway Adult Clients, Parents and Guardians:

As you may have heard, a new influenza virus, called the 2009 H1N1 influenza virus, was first identified in the United States in late April 2009. The virus has caused illness ranging from mild to severe, including hospitalizations and deaths in adults and children. Many people with cognitive disabilities have gotten 2009 H1N1 infection and some have experienced severe complications. The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention's (CDC) Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices has recommended that persons with cognitive disabilities be vaccinated against 2009 H1N1 as soon as the vaccine is available.

Vaccination is the best way to protect against this potentially serious disease. You may get this vaccination at your physician's office, in a local clinic or at upcoming clinics at Foothills Gateway. The Larimer County Health Department is working with Foothills Gateway to make the 2009 H1N1 influenza vaccine more easily available to our adult clients. The vaccine will be available to adult clients 18 years or older (who have graduated from school) and who receive Comprehensive Services, Supported Living Services, or who are on the Waiting List. There will be **no cost** to clients for this vaccine. **These clinics will be for adult clients only;** family members and clients younger than 18 years old should see their personal physician to determine the need for vaccination.

We have included a vaccine consent form with this letter. Please read the "What you need to know" form included with this letter about the disease and the vaccine. **You must then sign and date the included consent form and return it to Foothills Gateway in the enclosed envelope to accept vaccination.** If you accept vaccination, the vaccine will be given at a scheduled vaccination clinic. If you do nothing the vaccination will not be given to you (or your family member.)

We will hold client vaccination clinics at Foothills Gateway when the vaccine is available to us from the health department, likely late November to early December. Information about dates and times of the clinics can be found by calling (970) 266-5450 or on our website at [www.foothillsgateway.org](http://www.foothillsgateway.org). Please visit the CDC's 2009 H1N1 influenza web site at <http://www.cdc.gov/h1n1flu/> for more information about 2009 H1N1 influenza. Your health care provider can also answer your questions about the 2009 H1N1 influenza virus.

Sincerely,

Shauna Poquette, RN  
Foothills Gateway Agency Nurse

**Please note: the 2009 H1N1 influenza vaccine is NOT the seasonal influenza vaccine. Both vaccines are needed to protect against influenza in the 2009 season.** See your physician for the seasonal influenza vaccine.