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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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(Bradenton, FL- November 3, 2009) – The Manatee County Health Department, in continued cooperation with Manatee County Schools, has announced the first seven public school clinics to provide H1N1 (swine) flu immunizations to elementary students as follows:

11/6	Anna Maria Elementary	(3:30 PM - 7 PM)
11/9	Blackburn Elementary	(3:30 PM- 7 PM)
11/10	Bayshore Elementary	(3:30 PM - 7 PM)
11/12	Freedom Elementary	(3:30 PM - 7 PM)
11/13	Braden River Elementary	(3:30 PM - 7 PM)
11/16	Kinnan Elementary	(3:30 PM - 7 PM)
11/17	Tillman Elementary	(3:30 PM - 7 PM)

At the clinics on the specified dates, Health department staff will provide the vaccines in schools to students enrolled whose parents or guardians are present with signed consent forms. A parental consent form and information packet is being distributed to all Manatee County students this week.

The packets contain the consent form and vaccine information sheets that explain the risks and contraindications associated with any immunization. Parents who want their children to receive the vaccine will be required to return the consent forms to their school within 3 days after receipt. Parents who do not wish to have their children vaccinated can simply not return the consent form. Parents are urged to read all of the information in the packet and consult their primary care provider if they have questions concerning the H1N1 (swine) flu vaccine. Many parents may also opt to have their child vaccinated at their physician's office.

Children under the age of 10 years are required to receive a second dose of the vaccine. A second clinic will be held at your child's school after 21 to 28 days.

"We are targeting our elementary students first as they have been identified as more at risk than middle and high school age students, as indicated in Manatee County's laboratory syndromic surveillance data. We expect to have all of the public elementary school clinics scheduled between now and the December holidays. We will release another schedule of clinic sites and dates by mid November, in accordance to the availability of the vaccine," stated Dr. Jennifer Bencie, Administrator, Manatee County Health Department.

Parents and the community are urged to monitor the media and the School District's website for periodic updates at www.manateeschools.net.

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