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PINELLAS COUNTY HEALTH DEPARTMENT

January 8, 2010

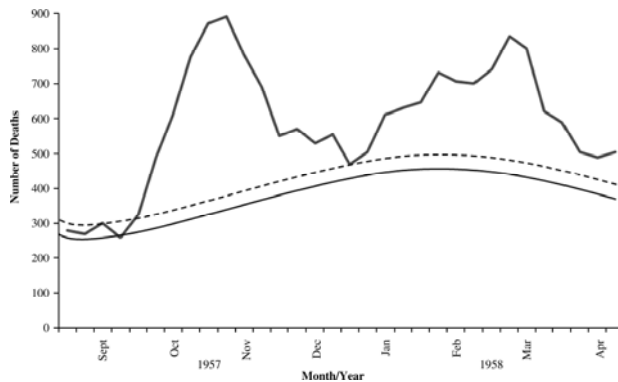
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**NATIONAL INFLUENZA VACCINATION WEEK, JAN. 10-16,
HIGHLIGHTS NEED FOR IMMUNIZATIONS**

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) is urging people of all ages to protect themselves from H1N1 and seasonal influenza by getting their vaccines now. Jan. 10-16 is **National Influenza Vaccination Week** and health officials are stressing that the week marks an excellent opportunity to find plentiful vaccines while there's time to be protected from the height of flu season in February and March. What may seem like a downturn in H1N1 illnesses now is no indication that the threat is over and that H1N1 will disappear.



In 1957, the flu peaked in the fall and then returned with a second wave that peaked in March 1958.

Dr. Anne Schuchat, director of the CDC's National Center for Immunizations and Respiratory Diseases, explains that the 1957-1958 flu pandemic seemed to lessen during December and January of 1957 and then returned with a second wave during February and March 1958. Flu vaccinations now will protect the public should H1N1 follow the same pattern as that flu season.

"Having as many people vaccinated as possible is our best course of action," said Dr. Schuchat. "The illness is down, there's plenty of vaccine [and] it's a key window of

opportunity. We don't want to repeat the story from 1957."

To extend opportunities to receive H1N1 vaccines to more residents of all ages, the Pinellas County Health Department continues to offer H1N1 vaccines at houses of worship and other locations around the county as well as its five centers in St. Petersburg, Largo, Pinellas Park, Clearwater and Tarpon Springs. For information about locations and times, call the H1N1 Information Line, (727) 824-6964, or go to www.PinellasHealth.com/H1N1SwineFlu.

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