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# News Release

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:  
January 7, 2010

## **H1N1 Flu Vaccine Now Available for VA Black Hills Enrolled Veterans**

Effective January 11, the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) Black Hills Health Care System will be offering H1N1 flu shots for enrolled Veterans at the following locations and times:

- Fort Meade VA Medical Center  
8:30am–3:30pm Monday through Friday through Primary Care on walk-in basis
- Hot Springs VA Medical Center  
8:30am–3:30pm Monday through Friday through Primary Care on walk-in basis  
After hours and weekends in Urgent Care (could expect wait times during these hours)
- Rapid City VA Clinic

Please call the Clinic to schedule an appointment at 605-718-1095, Ext. 3051

**Veterans are encouraged to call the VA Black Hills flu information line at 800-764-5370 (Hot Springs) or 800-743-1070 (Fort Meade) prior to coming in for their vaccination to ensure that adequate vaccine is available. Veterans are asked to bring their VA identification card.**

Veterans who have an upcoming appointment with their primary care provider may receive their H1N1 flu shot at the time of their appointment.

“This is an especially challenging influenza season,” stated Dr. Robert Dorr, Chief of Staff. “Many people have suffered severe consequences from the flu. It is important for Veterans to get their 2009 H1N1 flu shot, especially those who might be pregnant, or have medical conditions such as asthma, chronic lung disease, heart disease, diabetes, or weakened immune systems.” He added, “The flu season is still with us. Don’t let your guard down.”

Flu vaccination is an important measure to protect you from the influenza virus. Also remember to wash your hands frequently, cover your cough and sneezes, and stay home and away from others if you are ill. For more information regarding the flu, contact our medical centers at the numbers listed above or visit [www.blackhills.va.gov](http://www.blackhills.va.gov).