

## EMERGENCY PLANNING

### The Influenza Challenge. . .

WITH ALL THE NEWS UPDATES CONTINUOUSLY CIRCULATING ABOUT THE NEW STRAIN OF INFLUENZA H1N1 (SWINE FLU)—this information will most likely **not** be new to you, however City Staff would like to take the opportunity to share what the City is doing to prepare for this pandemic, and to reiterate some suggestions on how to keep yourself and your family well. Although this pandemic should be taken seriously, and requires attention from everyone in regards to planning, we should also try to keep things in perspective.

#### KEEPING YOURSELF AND YOUR FAMILY WELL:

- Research ([www.flu.gov](http://www.flu.gov), [www.flu.oregon.gov](http://www.flu.oregon.gov)) and work with your family physician to determine who, if anyone, should be vaccinated in your family;
- Wash your hands regularly;
- Follow proper sneeze and cough etiquette;
- Routinely clean hard objects, i.e. desk, doorknob, etc., as the virus can live up to 8 hours on hard objects;
- Maintain a healthy lifestyle through rest, diet, exercise and relaxation; and
- If you are sick—stay home to prevent spreading the virus to others.

#### INITIAL VACCINE PRIORITY GROUPS INCLUDE:

- Everyone aged 6 months to 24 years;
- Pregnant women;
- People caring for or living with infants under 6 months of age;
- People aged 25-64 with underlying medical conditions (i.e. asthma, immune deficiencies, etc.); and
- Health care workers, emergency medical responders, frontline law enforcement and public safety workers.

**MONITOR** [www.flu.gov](http://www.flu.gov) and [www.flu.oregon.gov](http://www.flu.oregon.gov) for updates on vaccine priority, availability and additional information.

**WHAT YOU CAN EXPECT FROM THE CITY OF HUBBARD:** The City's primary goal in preparing for this pandemic is two-fold—**providing the continuity of service our community—you-depend on, while protecting employees health and safety.** Reduced workforce due to illness is the number one potential issue City Departments may face in the upcoming months. City Staff has prioritized tasks and services, and has cross-trained multiple staff members to be able to complete many of these tasks and services. Both the Police Department and Public Works Department have Mutual Aid Agreements in place which would allow the City to utilize personnel resources from other agencies around the State should the need arise. In addition, the City supports and encourages Staff to:

- Research available data and consult with their family physician on the benefits and potential side-effects of obtaining the H1N1 vaccination and the regular seasonal flu vaccinations, allowing them to make informed decisions on whether to vaccinate or not;
- Have good personal hygiene by keeping tissues, hand sanitizers and soaps stocked and easily available;
- Stay home if they are sick with a fever or chills AND a sore throat or cough until they have been fever-free for 24 hours;
- Go home a.s.a.p. if they become sick with flu-like symptoms at work; and
- In addition, whenever feasible, the City supports telecommuting to allow for staff to continue to work while limiting contact with others; help maintain continuity of operations; and help Staff manage their health and family's needs.

**IN THE EVENT** flu conditions become more severe than that of the spring & summer 2009, the City **may** consider adding additional protective measures to ensure the City can continue to achieve our primary goal as mentioned above.

**Knowledge and preparation are your best defense and are your responsibility!** For more information on EMERGENCY PLANNING, call 503.982.9429, or visit our website at [www.cityofhubbard.org](http://www.cityofhubbard.org).



## CONCERNED ABOUT THE AIR YOU BREATHE ???

DEQ OFFERS some practical tips on how to reduce the amount of airborne pollutants:

1. Parents—turn off your engine! If you are waiting to pick up your child at school, consider the fact that idling vehicles emit significant amounts of pollution. Children are more vulnerable to tailpipe pollution because their lungs are still developing, and they breath 50% more air per pound than adults.
2. Heating your home with wood? Consider these steps you can take to burn cleaner (good for your health) and more efficiently (good for your budget):
  - ⇒ Use only dry, seasoned wood. Dry wood for at least 6 months.
  - ⇒ Burn only wood. Do not burn garbage, plastics, rubber, paint or oil, briquettes, paper, etc.—burning these items releases harmful chemicals into the air.
  - ⇒ Build small, hot fires instead of large smoldering ones.
  - ⇒ Don't "bed the fire down" for the night. Holding a fire overnight is a fire hazard and can create serious indoor and outdoor air pollution problems.

**THE PACIFIC HWY. 99E/"D" STREET REALIGNMENT PROJECT** should be substantially complete by the time you read this newsletter! ODOT plans to be back in Hubbard in approximately May, 2010 to complete the final lift.

## IF YOU HAVE DRIVEN BY WALNUT COURT RECENTLY,

you have probably noticed the new playground equipment and basketball 1/2 court! These improvements were made possible by Linda Kleczynski, Hubbard Parks Improvement Committee! Many thanks to their dedication, hard work and project organization!

## THE 1ST PHASE OF THE ANDREW COMMONS PROJECT IS COMPLETE AND LOOKS AWESOME

thanks to Jan LaFollette, Scott Eden & their volunteer work crew! They are already preparing for phase 2 which will take place in the spring!

**WISHING YOU ALL HAPPY & SAFE HOLIDAYS ~ Hubbard Public Works**