



CITY OF BAINBRIDGE ISLAND

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Health District Presents Community Update on H1N1 Flu

Bainbridge Island, WA, October 9, 2009 – Kitsap County Health Officer Dr. Scott Lindquist will present an update on the H1N1 flu virus for the Bainbridge Island community Tuesday, October 20, at Bainbridge Island High School. The event is co-sponsored by the City of Bainbridge Island, the Bainbridge Island School District, Bainbridge Island Fire Department and the Rotary Club of Bainbridge Island.

“There’s a lot of information about H1N1 in the media, and some of it is confusing. How concerned should you be? How can you best protect yourself and your family from this disease?” said Bainbridge Chief of Police Jon Fehlman, who is responsible for the city’s Emergency Preparedness Program. “This is a great opportunity for Bainbridge residents to talk directly with our community’s Health Officer about H1N1, and learn the best strategies for staying healthy.”

Dr. Lindquist will discuss the current and potential impacts of H1N1 in our area, the risks associated with the disease and the types of people most at risk, actions people can take to protect themselves and their families, and efforts by the Health District to lessen the virus’ impact. He will also talk about the nature of pandemic disease and longer-term strategies for prevention. Representatives from the School District, City of Bainbridge Island and Bainbridge Island Fire Department will be on hand to address island agencies’ response, and the presentation will include ample opportunity for community questions and dialogue.

“H1N1 is no ordinary flu. Although it has similar symptoms, it’s different from the typical seasonal flu,” said Dr. Lindquist. “We encourage everyone to learn about this new virus and how to protect themselves and their families.”

The presentation will take place on October 20, 6:30 – 8:30 pm, in the LGI at Bainbridge Island High School. The presentation is the first in a series, Bainbridge Prepares, sponsored by the city to promote community emergency preparedness. The next presentation, “Winter Storms – Be Ready,” will take place in November. In early 2010, there will be an introduction to the “Map Your Neighborhood” program, through which neighbors can plan together to strengthen their ability to respond to emergencies.

All events are free, but reservations are suggested. To reserve a seat or for more information, contact Cathie Currie, Communications Coordinator, City of Bainbridge Island, at 780-8632 or ccurrie@ci.bainbridge-isl.wa.us.

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