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H1N1 Vaccine Available at Slidell Memorial Hospital

Slidell, LA – Nov. 12, 2009—Slidell Memorial Hospital announces it will offer H1N1 vaccinations to the general public through its SMH Center for Family Health primary care center, 901 Gause Blvd., between 9 a.m. and 4 p.m. on Friday, Nov. 20. The vaccine will be \$5 per dose to cover administrative costs. There are limited supplies of the vaccine at this point in time.

The vaccination will be made available to both established patients and others. Participating physicians are Dr. Deborah Hollister and Dr. Tradina Pichon.

Chief Medical Officer, Dr. W.L. Williams said, “Taking the H1N1 flu vaccine is an effective and safe way to prevent from getting the H1N1 flu. To date all influenza in the state has been the H1N1 variety. All people in the ‘at-risk’ categories should consider getting the vaccine.” Immunization is at least 70% effective in preventing the disease.”

The Centers for Disease Control recommends the H1N1 vaccine for:

- Pregnant women
- Those who live with or care for children younger than 6 months
- Adults with a weakened immune system or chronic health disorder such as cancer, chronic lung disease, heart, kidney, liver, blood or neurological disorders
- Healthcare and emergency medical workers
- Those six months of age to 24 years old
- Healthy adults between 25 and 64 years old (Lowest priority and least likely to acquire the disease)

For information or to make an appointment, patients may call (985) 639-8970. The vaccine will be available for as long as present supplies last.

ABOUT SMH

Slidell Memorial Hospital is a full-service 182-bed acute care not-for-profit community hospital located at 1001 Gause Blvd., in the heart of Slidell. Founded in 1959, SMH is the third-largest employer in St. Tammany Parish, employing 1,100 full, part-time and pool employees. SMH serves as a primary healthcare resource for families in St. Tammany Parish, LA; Pearl River County, MS; and the greater Mississippi Gulf Coast region. It is located online at <http://www.slidellmemorial.org>.