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*"Working Together for a Healthier Community"*

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**Clinton County Health Department  
Press Release  
"County Flu Clinics Delayed"  
November 2, 2006**

Officials at the Clinton County Health Department have decided to delay any further flu and pneumonia clinics throughout Clinton County. "Continued delay in delivery of the influenza vaccine has forced us to make this decision. Once we receive our remaining order we should have adequate supply to complete the previous schedule. This is a postponement of clinics not a cancellation."

The delay in influenza vaccine distribution was identified in September. At that time, manufacturers of the vaccine released information to the Center for Disease Control that they had experienced difficulty in "growing" one of the 2006 strains contained in the vaccine. Annually the influenza vaccine includes three strains. The strains chosen are identified a year or more in advance. This would normally leave ample time for manufacturing and distribution throughout the country. In past years manufacturing issues caused a shortage in the amount of flu vaccine available. Providers of the influenza vaccine have assured the public health community that this is only a delay, there will be plenty of influenza vaccine available, just not as soon as everyone would like to have it.

The Health Department is urging the public to monitor the local media closely for rescheduled public influenza clinics. Residents can also go to the Health Department website at [www.clintonhealth.org](http://www.clintonhealth.org) or call the Information Health Line at 565-4490 for updates. Public Health Officials are also asking the public to be patient. "We will have vaccine, just later than normal. People in our region can be vaccinated well into the year and even into the New Year and be protected", further stated the Director.

Endorsed by: \_\_\_\_\_

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