



# *Quick Reads*

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## **Antivirals released**

IDPH has released antiviral medications from the state stockpile. These prescription medications can be used to treat 2009 H1N1 and seasonal influenza. Products released include Tamiflu suspension (liquid), Tamiflu capsules and Relenza. These medications were released to local public health departments across the state and are intended to go to persons who are uninsured and underinsured. For questions, please contact Steve Mercer in the IDPH Center for Disaster Operations at [smerc@idph.state.ia.us](mailto:smerc@idph.state.ia.us).

## **Help us get the word out to trades people in your area**

You may have recently seen some advertisements in your local newspaper from the [Iowa Plumbing and Mechanical Systems Board](http://www.idph.state.ia.us/eh/plumbing.asp). Placed in the classifieds section of 193 newspapers across the state, the ads target individuals who do part-time work in plumbing, mechanical, refrigeration, or hydronics trades, but who may not yet be licensed. The ads highlight the fact that a test will be required for anyone who gets licensed after December 31, 2009. Since the ads began running in the first two weeks of November, license applications have increased dramatically, but the department could use your help in making sure trades people in your area know about the importance of getting licensed before the end of the year. Please encourage them to visit [www.idph.state.ia.us/eh/plumbing.asp](http://www.idph.state.ia.us/eh/plumbing.asp) or call 1-866-280-1521 for more information.

## **IDPH programs win communications awards**

Congratulations to the IDPH programs that recently earned 15 [awards](#) from the [National Public Health Information Coalition](#) (NPHIC). Presented last month at the

NPHIC conference in Miami, FL, the awards recognize excellence in the field of public health communications. I am especially proud of the four gold awards we earned for our "What Town is Next?" tobacco use prevention campaign, the gold we won for H1N1 risk communications, and our gold award for the IDPH Challenge Coin. For a complete list of awards, visit [www.nphic.org/conference2009.aspx](http://www.nphic.org/conference2009.aspx).

### **Family planning services up 20 percent so far in 2009**

I'd like to take a moment to recognize the hard work by our [family planning](#) partners across the state. During the first 10 months of this year, IDPH Family Planning Delegate Agencies have served approximately 1,274 more clients than they did over the same time period in 2008. This 20 percent increase in services is the result of increased demand for publically funded family planning services during difficult economic times. These services include reproductive life planning and education, pregnancy testing and OB/GYN referrals, and screening and treatment of sexually transmitted infections. Thank you to these important partners and all public health professionals who provide services to Iowans when they need them most.

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*To everyone in public health and all our partners, keep up the great work!*

— Tom