



Sangamon County Department of Public Health

NEWS RELEASE

Sangamon County Department of Public Health Announces Seasonal Flu Immunization Program, and advises the public to “Take Action to Prevent Flu...Get Vaccinated”

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The Sangamon County Department of Public Health (SCDPH) is offering seasonal influenza immunizations to the public starting **September 23rd, 2019** at outbound locations (see attached schedule) and at their walk-in clinic located at 2833 South Grand Avenue East, Springfield.

The flu vaccination is no cost to all Medicare B and Medicaid recipients upon presentation of their respective cards. People under the age of 65 who are not Medicare B or Medicaid recipients may also receive the influenza immunization for \$35.00. Those who are 65 years and older have the option of receiving the High-Dose influenza vaccination for \$60.00. SCDPH also accepts numerous health insurance plans, and will bill those participating companies upon presentation of the applicable insurance card. The insurance plans accepted by SCDPH includes Blue Cross, Aetna, Humana, Cigna, Molina, Coventry, Meridian, Illinicare, and Health Alliance.

The hours for walk-in clinics are as follows:

Mondays	8:30 a.m. to 6:30 p.m.
Tuesdays	8:30 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.
Wednesdays	8:30 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.
Thursdays	8:30 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.
Fridays	8:30 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.

Information on vaccination clinic times and locations are located on SCDPH’s website – www.scdph.org. Employers are encouraged to call Kayla Porter at 535-3100 ext. 3786 to schedule a worksite flu vaccination clinic. Homebound residents can contact Diana Wade at 535-3100 extension 3774 to arrange vaccination.

www.scdph.org

Main Campus: 2833 South Grand Avenue East | Springfield, IL 62703-2175 | (217) 535-3100

Animal Control & Adoption Center: 2100 Shale Street | Springfield, IL 62703-5634 | (217) 535-3065

SCDPH joins the Centers for Disease Control in their strong recommendation that everyone 6 months of age and older get their yearly flu vaccination as soon as vaccines become available in their community.

People at highest risk for complications from the flu who should get vaccinated each year include:

- Children ages 6 months to 5 years;
- People 50 years of age and older;
- Women who will be pregnant during the influenza season;
- People of any age with certain chronic medical conditions;
- People who live in nursing homes and other long term care facilities; and
- People who live with or care for those at high risk for complications from flu, i.e., household contact of persons at high risk for complications from flu, caregivers of children less than 6 months of age and healthcare workers.

Children ages 6 months through 8 years who have never received an influenza vaccine should receive 2 doses one month apart.

Persons 65 years and older will again be given a choice between the quadrivalent seasonal flu vaccine and a trivalent High-Dose flu vaccine. The High-Dose vaccine is recommended for persons 65 years and older to help ramp up their immune system, since it contains 4 times the antigens as the standard vaccine. The High-Dose vaccine may have more of the mild side effects than occur with the standard-strength seasonal vaccines. Mild side effects can include pain, redness, or swelling at the injection-site, headache, muscle ache and fever. If you are 65 or older, and are interested in the High-Dose flu vaccine, you may wish to talk with your doctor about which type of seasonal flu vaccine is best for you.

The flu season typically runs from October through May. It takes up to 2 weeks for protection to develop after the vaccination. Therefore, it is important for people, especially those most vulnerable, to be vaccinated soon.

Gail O’Neill, Director of Public Health for Sangamon and Menard Counties, noted that “The CDC estimated that 959,134 people were hospitalized for flu-related illness in the 2017-2018 influenza season and estimated 79,416 deaths had occurred. O’Neill also emphasizes “it is very important for people to use good hygiene practices to help prevent the spread of influenza.” These practices include:

- **Stay home when sick.** People with flu-like illness should stay home for at least 24-hours after they no longer have a fever, or signs of a fever, without the use of fever-reducing medicines.
- **Hand hygiene and respiratory etiquette.** Basic healthy hygiene practices like the 3 Cs - clean, cover and contain - should always be emphasized. Taking these precautions is vital to limiting the spread of illness.

Clean – wash your hands frequently to prevent the spread of germs.

Cover – your cough or sneeze with your elbow or sleeve.

Contain –stay home if you’re sick.

SCDPH Flu Program phone line, 535-3100, then press 5, will list all locations, dates, and times of flu clinic sites.