



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Bear Lake Health Department to Hold Flu Vaccination Clinics to Support National Influenza Vaccination

Montpelier - The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) has announced the week after Thanksgiving, November 27 to December 2, as National Influenza Vaccination Week. This event is designed to highlight the importance of continuing influenza (flu) vaccination, as well as foster greater use of flu vaccine through the months of November, December and beyond. This year, Tuesday November 27, 2007, is set aside as Children's Flu Vaccination Day, with a focus on vaccinating high-risk children. Each year, over 20,000 children under age 5 are hospitalized as a result of influenza. This day will help raise awareness about the value of vaccinating children—especially high-risk children—and their close contacts.

To support the CDC declaration, the Bear Lake Health Department will be holding a walk-in flu vaccination clinic for all ages, Thursday, November 29th, 2007, from 9:00 a.m. to 12:00 and 1:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m. The cost for the flu vaccination for adults is \$23 for adults and \$14 for children up to age 18. Medicare can be billed as long as participants bring in their medical card.

Influenza, a contagious disease that is caused by the influenza virus, attacks the respiratory tract in humans. The flu is different from a cold in that it comes on suddenly and may include these symptoms: fever, headache, extreme tiredness, dry cough, sore throat, and body aches. The Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices (ACIP) recommends that vaccination efforts during October and November focus on persons at greatest risk for influenza-related complications. These include:

- All persons, including school-aged children, who want to reduce their risk of becoming ill with influenza or of spreading it to others
- All children ages 6-59 months
- All persons age 50 years or older
- All children and teenagers receiving long-term aspirin therapy
- All women who will be pregnant during the influenza season
- Adults and children with any of the following conditions:
 - . a chronic disorder of the pulmonary or cardiovascular system
 - . a chronic disease of the blood, liver, or kidneys, immunosuppression

(e.g., caused by medications, HIV), or diabetes; compromised ability to handle respiratory secretions or an increased risk for aspiration (e.g., cognitive dysfunction, spinal cord injury, seizure disorder, or other neuromuscular disorder)

- All residents of nursing homes or other chronic-care facilities
- All healthcare personnel
- All household contacts (including children) and caregivers of children ages 0-59 months (especially younger than 6 mos), adults 50 years and older, and persons having high-risk medical conditions
- Persons planning to travel to an area of the world with influenza activity (e.g., to the tropics at any time of the year)

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For information about this and many other events SDHD is offering, please see our Calendar of Events page on www.sdhdidaho.org