



Sangamon County
Department of Public Health

James D. Stone, M.A., C.P.H.A.
Director of Public Health

NEWS RELEASE

Sangamon County Department of Public Health to Begin Seasonal Flu Immunization Program

September 1, 2011

Contact: James D. Stone, M.A., C.P.H.A.
Director of Public Health
217-535-3100

The Sangamon County Department of Public Health (SCDPH) will begin providing their annual influenza immunization walk-in clinics during regular clinic hours at 2833 South Grand Avenue East, Springfield, starting on **September 6th**. 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. Seasonal flu immunizations are free to all Medicare B and Medicaid recipients upon presentation of their card. Sangamon County residents who are not Medicare B or Medicaid recipients may also receive the immunization for a \$27.00 fee. Clinic hours are as follows:

2833 South Grand Avenue East:

| | |
|-------------------|-------------------------------|
| 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 6:30 p.m. |
| Fridays | 8:30 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. |

SCDPH will offer 15 outbound seasonal flu immunization clinics beginning **September 13th** (see attached schedule). SCDPH will be providing flu immunizations to the residents of Springfield high rises and at numerous businesses throughout the County. Information on vaccination clinic times and locations will be posted on SCDPH's website – www.scdph.org. Worksite immunization clinics are available to employers with 10 or more employees. Call 321-2603 to schedule your business today.

This season, people 65 years and older will have two flu vaccines available to them—a regular flu vaccine and a new flu vaccine with a higher dose. The high dose vaccine is associated with a stronger immune response to the vaccination. However, whether the stronger immune response results in greater protection against influenza illness in older adults is not yet known. The CDC and its Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices have not expressed a preference for either vaccine. The higher dose may have more of the mild side effects that 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, talk with your doctor about which type of seasonal flu vaccine is right for you.

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 contacts of persons at high risk for complications from flu, household contacts and out of home caregivers of children less than 6 months of age (these children are too young to be vaccinated), and healthcare workers.

Children ages 6 months through 8 years should receive 2 doses of vaccine if they have not previously been vaccinated. SCDPH concurs with this recommendation and hopes parents emphasize immunizing their children against influenza.

Seasonal flu immunizations can be given at any time during the flu season, which typically runs from October through May. It takes up to 2 weeks for protection to develop after the vaccination.

Influenza, which is commonly called the flu, is caused by viruses that infect the respiratory tract and spreads from person to person when an infected person coughs or sneezes. Typical symptoms include a fever of 100° to 103° in adults and often higher in children, dry cough, runny or stuffy nose, headache, muscle aches, and extreme fatigue. The 2011-2012 seasonal influenza vaccine composition contains inactivated strains of A/California /7/2009 (H1N1) like virus, A/Perth/16/2009 (H3N2) like virus, and B/Brisbane/60/2008 like virus.

Jim Stone, Director of Public Health for Sangamon County, noted that “Many simple prevention methods that were emphasized last year are important each and every flu season.” The Sangamon County Department of Public Health would like to remind parents and the general public of the following:

- **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.

The Department’s **Flu Program Information Help Line, 535-3100, then press 8**, will list all locations, dates, and times of flu clinic sites. You may also access our website at www.scdph.org.



**SANGAMON COUNTY DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC HEALTH
FLU IMMUNIZATION CLINICS – 2011**

| <u>DATE</u> | <u>TIME</u> | <u>LOCATION</u> |
|----------------------------|--------------------------------|--|
| Tuesday, Sept. 13 | 9:00 a.m. – 10:30 a.m. | Riverton Knights of Columbus 400 South Fourth Street, Riverton |
| Tuesday, Sept. 13 | 9:00 a.m. – 11:00 a.m. | Senior Center 701 West Mason, Springfield |
| Tuesday, Sept. 13 | 11:00 a.m. – 12:30 p.m. | St. Jude's Parish 633 South Walnut, Rochester |
| Tuesday, Sept. 13 | 11:00 a.m. – 12:30 p.m. | Unity Church – Southern View 417 Cordelia, Springfield |
| Wednesday, Sept. 14 | 9:00 a.m. – 10:00 a.m. | Divernon Senior Center 44 Dodds, Divernon |
| Wednesday, Sept. 14 | 9:00 a.m. – 11:00 a.m. | Jerome Municipal Building 2901 Leonard, Springfield |
| Wednesday, Sept. 14 | 9:00 a.m. – 11:00 a.m. | Grandview Municipal Building Corner of Milton & Keys, Springfield |
| Wednesday, Sept. 14 | 10:30 a.m. – Noon | Auburn Community/Senior Center 118 North Fifth Street, Auburn |
| Wednesday, Sept. 14 | 12:30 p.m. – 2:00 p.m. | Pawnee Fire Station 711 Eighth Street, Pawnee |
| Thursday, Sept. 15 | 9:00 a.m. – 10:00 a.m. | Sangamon County Fairgrounds 316 West Birch, New Berlin |
| Thursday, Sept. 15 | 9:00 a.m. – 10:00 a.m. | Buffalo Community Center 600 South Main, Buffalo |
| Thursday, Sept. 15 | 11:00 a.m. – Noon | Pleasant Plains Town Hall 200 West Fourth Street, Pleasant Plains |
| Thursday, Sept. 15 | 11:00 a.m. – Noon | Illioopolis Senior Center 407 Fifth Street, Illioopolis |
| Friday, Sept. 16 | 9:00 a.m. – 10:00 a.m. | Villa West 100 Stardust, Sherman |
| Friday, Sept. 16 | 9:00 a.m. – 11:00 a.m. | Sangamon Prairie Reception Center 202 South Grand, Rt. 4, Chatham |
| Friday, Sept. 16 | 10:30 a.m. – 11:30 a.m. | Odd Fellow Heritage Apartments 180 North Elkhart, Williamsville |