January 11, 2010

News Release

For Immediate Release

**National Influenza Vaccination Week is January 10-16**

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention partners with local communities each year to stress the importance of influenza vaccinations. "National Influenza Vaccination Week provides an opportunity to remind our community how important it is for people to get an H1N1 vaccination," said Pam Bryant, Maternal Child and Family Health Administrator for the Springfield-Greene County Health Department. "Getting vaccinated is the single best way for people to protect not only themselves against the flu, but their loved ones as well."

Although flu-like illness has decreased, influenza viruses are unpredictable and another wave of H1N1 flu is still possible. The best protection against the flu is to be vaccinated. H1N1 vaccine is still available for anyone that would like to be vaccinated.

The Springfield-Greene County Health Department's Westside Public Health Center is providing H1N1 vaccinations free of charge at regularly scheduled walk-in clinics on Tuesdays from 7:30 am - 10:00 am. Westside Public Health Center is located at 660 S. Scenic, Springfield 65802.

Now is the time to get vaccinated. The H1N1 flu virus could last beyond the normal flu season and could cause serious illness beyond the winter months. So, take advantage of this time to get vaccinated and protect yourself against the H1N1 flu.

For more information on the H1N1 flu and vaccination, please visit www.springfieldmo.gov/health or call 417-874-1228.

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