

October 12, 2011

News Release

For Immediate Release

Seasonal Flu Shot Clinics Offered in November

Flu season has begun and residents should take precautions to prevent illness by getting vaccinated. Flu vaccine supply is readily available at physician offices and local retailers. The Springfield Flu Immunization Coalition will be offering several adult "seasonal" flu shot clinics in November. These vaccinations offer protection against seasonal flu and will include protection against the H1N1 virus. **Vaccinations will be available for residents without health insurance.**

Residents without insurance who are unable to pay for a flu shot are more likely to forgo vaccination and may have to utilize emergency rooms and clinics to treat flu-related symptoms. These treatment options can often be more costly. By offering flu shots to residents without insurance, the Flu Coalition aims to reduce the spread of flu as well as reduce the costs of treatment associated with flu illness.

Health care workers and individuals with insurance coverage, including those with Medicare, should get their flu shots through employers or physicians.

The Springfield Flu Immunization Coalition's clinics are scheduled throughout the month of November 2011. The clinics will be open from 7:00 a.m. until 11:00 a.m. unless otherwise noted. Flu shots will be available at the locations below on a first-come, first-served basis. Neither vouchers nor reservations will be needed this year.

- Wednesday, November 2: St. Agnes School, 531 S. Jefferson St.
- Thursday, November 3: Salvation Army, 1707 W. Chestnut Expressway
- Friday, November 4: Northview Senior Center, 301 E. Talmage
- Monday, November 14: Crosslines/Council of Churches, 627 N. Glenstone, **9:00 a.m.-1:00 p.m.**

Vaccine for the clinics will be made available again this year through the cooperation of the Springfield Flu Immunization Coalition. Members include CoxHealth, Greene County Medical Society, Ozarks Community Hospital, Springfield-Greene County Health Department, and St. John's Health System. Immunizations that are not utilized during the walk-in clinics will be donated to local organizations dedicated to reducing the spread of flu in our community. For more information about clinics, call the Influenza hotline 417/874-1228.

For more information, contact: Katie Towns-Jeter, Springfield-Greene County Health Department, 417.874.1205 or Greene County Medical Society, 417.887.1017