

IT'S NOT TOO LATE TO GET YOUR FAMILY VACCINATED

Protect Yourself from Influenza This Holiday Season

November 26, 2019– The 2019-2020 Influenza (flu) season is already underway and positively confirmed flu cases are on the rise. As part of National Influenza Vaccination Week, District Health Department #10 (DHD#10) is reminding families that it's not too late to get the flu vaccine.

The flu is a contagious respiratory illness that can cause mild to severe infection in the nose, throat, and lungs. The flu season typically starts in October and can last as late as May. "Anyone can get the flu and face serious complications, which can include death," states DHD#10 Medical Director Jennifer Morse. "That is why the flu shot is recommended for everyone over the age of 6 months, regardless of whether they are healthy or have risks. The very young, pregnant women, elderly, and those with certain underlying health problems are at higher risk to have serious flu-related complications."

It is estimated that yearly, the flu results in 31.4 million outpatient visits and more than 200,000 hospitalizations. During the 2017-18 flu season, one of the longest and most severe in recent years, estimates indicate that more than 900,000 people were hospitalized, and more than 80,000 people died from the flu.

The CDC recommends routine annual influenza vaccination for all persons 6 months of age and older. This year there are many flu vaccine options available, and residents should speak with a healthcare provider about which flu vaccine is best for them.

DHD#10, doctor's offices, and pharmacies are easy-to-access options for flu shots. Children who lack insurance may be eligible for the Vaccines for Children Program available at DHD#10 and many provider offices. No one should go unprotected from the flu. Call 888-217-3904, option #2 to make an appointment at your local DHD#10 office.

Residents with questions about vaccines, including the flu vaccine, can visit IVaccinate.org. For more information about flu activity in Michigan, visit Michigan.gov/flu.

About DHD #10

District Health Department #10 (DHD #10) is Michigan's largest geographical health department, mandated to promote and protect the public from unsafe and hazardous conditions and provide methods of promoting good health and disease prevention. Some of the vital programs provided by DHD #10 include Immunizations, Infectious Disease Control, STI Testing and Counseling, WIC, Maternal Infant Health Program, Healthy Families Northern Michigan, Children's Special Health Services, Hearing and Vision Screening, Family Planning, Cancer Screening, Worksite Wellness, Smoking Cessation, Substance Use Prevention, Chronic Disease Prevention, and Environmental Health Services. DHD #10 serves Crawford, Kalkaska, Lake, Manistee, Mason, Mecosta, Missaukee, Newaygo, Oceana, and Wexford counties. For more information, visit www.dhd10.org.

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