

News Release

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

November 30, 2020

DECEMBER 1ST DRIVE-THRU FLU SHOT CLINIC: MANISTEE COUNTY ROAD COMMISSION

Health experts urge all who can to get their flu shot

This year's flu season coincides with the COVID-19 pandemic, increasing the public's risk for developing a respiratory illness with potentially serious complications. Fortunately, a safe, effective vaccine already exists for the seasonal flu and is updated each year in anticipation of the most prevalent flu strains.

The flu shot has proven benefits for people of all ages and is the best defense against the influenza virus. The CDC recommends everyone 6 months and older get vaccinated, including pregnant women. Each year, the flu vaccine prevents millions of adults and children from getting sick with this serious and potentially life-threatening virus.

Health experts warn that it's even more important than ever to get this flu shot this year. While the best time to get your flu shot is before the season hits, it's never too late.

Community partners have teamed up to offer drive-through flu vaccine clinics in communities across Northern Michigan so individuals can get vaccinated without even getting out of their car. Upcoming Drive-Thru Clinic events within the District Health Department #10 service area include Manistee County on Tuesday, December 1st:

Manistee

Tuesday, December 1, 9 am - 3 pm

Manistee Road Commission

8946 Chippewa Hwy., Bear Lake, MI 49614

Serving ages 6 months +

There will be no out-of-pocket costs for participants. Insurance will be billed for those who have insurance. The vaccine is free for those without insurance. Face coverings are required at all events.

"This is a great opportunity for families with small children as there is no need to unpack them from the vehicle and into a building and back" states Bethanie Dean, RN, Immunization Coordinator, District Health Department #10. "This also makes it easier for our seniors and disabled population to get vaccinated."



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Additionally, thanks to a generous donation from West Shore Bank, for every individual who receives their influenza vaccine at this drive-thru clinic will receive a \$5 Subway gift card. That's a gift card for every single person - including children.

This clinic is part of a regional effort to improve influenza vaccination rates across Northern Michigan in a collaborative effort between District Health Department #10, other local public health agencies, Munson Healthcare and their regional hospitals, and Visiting Nurses Association.

Kevin Hughes, Health Officer for District Health Department #10 explained, "We are grateful for the efforts and collaboration across multiple organizations to deliver this important public health service," stated Kevin Hughes, Health Officer for District Health Department #10. "Not one single entity had the capacity to do this alone. By pooling our resources, we can now reach more community members than we would have individually. This is public health at its best."

For those who have not received their flu shot and who cannot make an event, additional clinics are available through your local health department or by calling your primary care provider.

