



## **RESPIRATORY ILLNESSES ARE ON THE RISE**

Stay Safe and Get Vaccinated

January 9, 2024 – District Health Department #10 (DHD#10) wants to remind residents that even though the holidays have passed, there is still an opportunity for spreading Flu, COVID-19, RSV, and other respiratory illnesses.

"Staying up to date on vaccinations is the most effective way to help reduce the risk of serious illness" said DHD#10 Immunization Coordinator, Bethanie Dean. "It's never too late to give us a call and schedule your boosters or check your eligibility for the RSV vaccine."

Vaccines and eligibility:

- Influenza (Flu)
  - Anyone 6 months or older that has not received a flu vaccine this season should get vaccinated.
- COVID-19
  - Anyone 6 months or older that has not received the updated 2023-2024 COVID vaccine should get vaccinated.
- RSV (Respiratory Syncytial Virus)
  - Adults 60 years and older should inquire with their primary care doctor or other health care professional to determine if vaccination is needed.

Residents can schedule their RSV vaccines by calling 888-217-3904, online scheduling for the RSV vaccine is not available. The cost for the RSV vaccine is \$301.00 plus an admin fee without insurance.

Residents can schedule their Flu and COVID-19 vaccine by visiting <u>https://www.dhd10.org/schedule</u> or by calling 888-217-3904. If no appointments are available, consider going to a pharmacy or your primary health care provider. Additional vaccination sites can be found at <u>https://www.vaccines.gov/search</u>.

The cost for the seasonal flu vaccine or the preservative-free flu vaccine without insurance is \$40. High dose flu shots are available for \$46. Please bring your insurance cards and your driver's license with you.

Many health insurance plans cover the cost of flu, COVID-19, and RSV vaccines. If not, DHD#10 may be able to help through Vaccines for Children (VFC) or other programs. DHD#10 can bill the following: Medicare\*, Medicare Health Plans\*, Medicaid, Medicaid Health Plans, Blue Cross Blue Shield, Blue Care Network\*\*, Priority Health, McLaren Commercial, ASR, United Health Care, and TRICARE with an insurance card present at the time of appointment. It is important to be aware of your insurance benefit rules.



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Proud member of the <u>Northern</u> <u>Michigan Public</u> <u>Health Alliance</u>: 7 local health departments advocating for public health. \*Medicare can only be billed for Flu, Pneumococcal, or PCV13 shots. \*\*Excludes Mercy Partnered Plans.

At-home COVID-19 tests are available through <u>https://www.covidtests.gov</u>. DHD#10 also supplies COVID-19 at-home tests; however, supplies are limited. DHD#10's COVID-19 test kits are only available on a first come, first served basis. Individuals are asked to take one kit per person, and up to four kits per household. Test kits are also available at most pharmacies. Be sure to call your pharmacy ahead of time, as demand remains high.

For more information on COVID-19, visit <u>https://www.dhd10.org/coronavirus</u>.

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