

Livingston County Health Center

800 Adam Drive, Chillicothe Missouri 64601

660-646-5506 FAX 660-646-4485

Open Monday through Friday, 8 a.m. to 5 p.m.

All Services provided on a non-discriminatory basis.

PressRelease

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Monday, October 19th

CONTACT: Sherry Weldon, Administrator or Mary Taylor, Maternal Child Health Coord.
646-5506

The Livingston County Health Center will be holding two walk-in flu shot clinics for children 6 months to 18 years this coming Wednesday, October 21st from 3:00 to 6:00 p.m. and Thursday, October 22 from 2 to 7 p.m. No appointments are being taken, shots will be administered on a first come, first served basis until the vaccine supply is exhausted.

Both seasonal influenza and H1N1 influenza vaccinations will be available, however, there are some high risk groups targeted for the H1N1 vaccine, which is currently experiencing a shortage.

The **high risk groups eligible** for H1N1 vaccine at this clinic are:

- **Children aged 2 to 4 years of age without respiratory issues such as asthma or chronic wheezing.***
- **Children 5 to 18 years old with chronic medical conditions.**

*Certain people should not get a nasal spray flu vaccine, including:

- People younger than 2 years of age;
- People with a medical condition that places them at higher risk for complications including those with chronic heart or lung disease, such as asthma; people with

medical conditions such as diabetes or kidney failure, or people with illnesses that weaken the immune system, or who take medications that can weaken the immune system;

- Children younger than 5 years old with a history of recurrent wheezing;
- Children or adolescents receiving aspirin therapy;
- Children who have a severe allergy to chicken eggs or who are allergic to any of the nasal spray vaccine components.

Flu is more dangerous than the common cold for children. Each year, flu places a large burden on the health and well-being of children and families. This year, the H1N1 virus seems to be affecting children more so than adults, making them even more susceptible to complications like pneumonia.

Certain groups of children are at increased risk for flu complications. Children at greater risk of serious flu-related complications include:

1. Children younger than 6 months old

The flu vaccine is not approved for use in infants younger than 6 months old; however, the risk of flu complications is higher in these young infants than it is for any other child age group. The best way to protect children younger than 6 months is to make sure members of their household and their caregivers are vaccinated.

2. Children aged 6 months up to their 5th birthday

It is estimated that each year in the U.S., there are more than 20,000 children younger than 5 years old who are hospitalized due to flu. Even children in this age group who are otherwise healthy are at risk simply because of their age. In addition, children 2 years of age up to their 5th birthday are more likely to be taken to a doctor, an urgent care center, or the emergency room because of flu than healthy older children. To protect their health, all children 6 months and older should be vaccinated against the flu each year. Vaccinating young children, their families, and other caregivers can also help protect them from getting sick.

3. Children aged 6 months and older with chronic health problems, including:

- asthma or other problems of the lungs;

- immune suppression;
- chronic kidney disease;
- heart disease;
- HIV/AIDS
- diabetes;
- sickle cell anemia; or
- long-term aspirin therapy;
- any condition that can reduce lung function (cognitive dysfunction, spinal cord injuries, seizure disorders, or other neuromuscular disorders).

Some facts about influenza in children:

- Children commonly need medical care because of influenza, especially before they turn 5 years old.
- Each year an average of 20,000 children under the age of 5 are hospitalized because of influenza complications.
- Severe influenza complications are most common in children younger than 2 years old.
- Children with chronic health problems like asthma and diabetes are at especially high risk of developing serious flu complications.
- Vaccination is the best method for preventing flu and its potentially severe complications in children.
- CDC recommends that all children aged 6 months up to their 19th birthday get a flu vaccine.

If you would like to obtain a seasonal flu shot or the H1N1 vaccination for your child, attend one of the two clinics this week: Wednesday, October 21 clinic from 3:00 to 6:00

p.m. or Thursday, October 22 from 2 to 7 p.m. All services of the health center are provided on a non-discriminatory basis.