



KALAMAZOO COUNTY GOVERNMENT

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NEWS RELEASE
FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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Residents Urged to Get Vaccinated for the Flu

KALAMAZOO, MI – The Kalamazoo County Health & Community Services Department would like to remind residents that it is not too late to receive the flu vaccination. In order for the community to remain healthy and safe during this flu season, it is highly encouraged residents receive the flu shot.

The flu is a contagious respiratory illness that can cause mild to severe infection in the nose, throat, and lungs. In some cases serious flu-related complications, like pneumonia, can lead to hospitalization and even death. A study conducted by the Center for Disease Control (CDC) showed that among hospitalized flu patients the flu vaccination reduced deaths, intensive care unit (ICU) admissions, ICU length of stay and overall duration of hospitalization ([*Clinical Infections Disease \(CID\) Journal*](#)).

The flu season typically starts in October and can last as late as May. Once you receive the flu vaccination, it can take up to two weeks for it to be fully effective. “It has been well documented that a flu shot makes flu-like symptoms milder, reduces the length and severity, and often prevents it completely for those who receive the flu vaccine,” said Dr. William Nettleton, Medical Director for Kalamazoo County Health & Community Services Department.

People of every age including those in good health, are at risk of catching the flu. The CDC recommends everyone 6 months and older receive the vaccine. It is especially important for protecting those at high risk for serious complications, including:

- Infant and Young Children
- Adults over the age of 65
- Pregnant Women
- People with chronic health conditions
- People living with or caring for high-risk individuals

HEALTH AND COMMUNITY SERVICES DEPARTMENT

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You can find flu vaccination clinics near you by using the website www.vaccinefinder.org. You can also contact your primary care physician or visit the Kalamazoo County Health & Community Services Department's Immunization Clinic at 3299 Gull Road, Kalamazoo, MI 49048. The Immunization Clinic offers daily walk-in hours for adults and children. For more information on the Immunization Clinic contact www.kalcounty.com/hcs or call (269) 373-5200.

Weekly Flu Reports are posted on the main page of Kalamazoo County Health & Community Services Department's website, www.kalcounty.com/hcs, under the "Hot Topics" section. This report is updated every Wednesday and provides a snapshot of the flu activity within Kalamazoo County.

Additional Resources:

Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, Frequently Asked Flu Questions for 2017-18 Influenza Season

- <https://www.cdc.gov/flu/about/season/flu-season-2017-2018.htm>

Michigan Department of Health & Human Services, Information on Vaccines for Children

- <https://ivaccinate.org/>

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