



KALAMAZOO COUNTY GOVERNMENT

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NEWS RELEASE
FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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Influenza Vaccine Available, Residents Urged to Get Vaccinated

KALAMAZOO, MI— The Influenza (flu) Vaccine is now available at Kalamazoo County Health & Community Services Department, and health officials are urging all residents to get vaccinated against the flu. Every person six months and older should get the flu vaccine every year, especially certain groups who are considered at highest risk, like young children, pregnant women, and adults who have chronic health conditions or are over the age of sixty-five.

Influenza is a serious respiratory illness that occurs seasonally nationwide. According to the CDC, during the 2017-2018 flu season the flu caused over 80,000 deaths nationwide, including 180 influenza-related pediatric deaths, and over 900,000 hospitalizations resulting in one of the worst years for flu activity in decades in the United States.

Anyone can get the flu, including healthy children and adults. Symptoms of influenza include: fever or feeling feverish/chilled, body aches, cough, sore throat or fatigue. Receiving a flu vaccine is the most effective method of prevention. If you receive a vaccination and still get the flu, the vaccine may make flu symptoms milder and the length of illness shorter. The vaccine will also prevent you from spreading the flu to others, including those at risk of more serious illness.

“As a parent and family physician, I vaccinate my family and patients not only to protect them, but to also protect those around them, including those who are most vulnerable. Last year’s flu season, which was the most deadly flu season in decades, serves as a reminder of the importance of yearly flu vaccination,” states Dr. William Nettleton, medical director of Kalamazoo County Health & Community Services.

The flu season typically starts in October and can last as late as May. The flu shot takes approximately two weeks ~~for vaccine~~ to provide full protection against the influenza virus. It is recommended that residents receive their vaccine before the end of October, prior to the holiday season beginning.

There are many locations where residents can receive a flu vaccine, including area pharmacies and through their family doctor’s office. The Kalamazoo County Health & Community Services Department is offering walk-

HEALTH AND COMMUNITY SERVICES DEPARTMENT

311 E. Alcott St. | Kalamazoo, MI 49001

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in flu vaccinations at their office located at 311 East Alcott Street, Kalamazoo, on the following dates and times:

Monday, Tuesday*, Wednesday, and Friday:
8:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m. (closed 12:00-1:00 p.m.)

Thursday:
10:00 a.m. – 6:00 p.m. (closed 1:00-2:00 p.m.).

*The third Tuesday of the month the clinic is closed from 8:00 a.m. – 1:00 p.m.

Most insurance plans will cover the cost for these vaccines, but no one will be turned away for an inability to pay. For questions regarding the influenza vaccine, contact the Health & Community Services Immunization Clinic at 269-373-5203.

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Kalamazoo County Government
Health & Community Services Department

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