



KALAMAZOO COUNTY GOVERNMENT

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NEWS RELEASE
FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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December 1-7 is National Influenza Vaccination Week

KALAMAZOO, MI— The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention recognizes December as National Influenza Vaccination Week to remind everyone six months and older that it's not too late to get a flu vaccine. The Influenza (flu) Vaccine is available at Kalamazoo County Health & Community Services Department, and health officials are urging all residents to receive the flu vaccine. Flu season typically starts in October and can last as late as May. The flu shot takes approximately two weeks to provide full protection against the influenza virus.

Influenza is a serious respiratory illness that occurs seasonally nationwide. According to the CDC, during the 2018-2019 flu season the flu caused between 37.4 and 42.9 million illnesses nationwide, including between 531,000 and 647,000 hospitalizations and nearly 61,200 deaths.

Anyone can get the flu, including healthy children and adults. 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.

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.

"The best way to protect yourself and your loved ones, especially during the holiday season and upcoming travels, is to get your flu vaccine now," said James Rutherford, Health Officer Kalamazoo County Health & Community Services.

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

HEALTH AND COMMUNITY SERVICES DEPARTMENT

311 E. Alcott St. | Kalamazoo, MI 49001

Phone: 269.373.5200 | www.kalcounty.com/hcs

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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