NEWS RELEASE

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Date: October 30, 2007

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Flu Immunization Clinics at Health Department
Protect Yourself and Your Loved Ones against the Flu

Kingsford, Michigan – October 30, 2007. The Dickinson-Iron District Health Department is reminding ANYONE WHO WANTS TO AVOID THE FLU to get a flu immunization. The Health Department will be holding flu clinics on Monday, November 19th and Monday, December 10th at the Kingsford office located at 818 Pyle Drive. Please call (906) 774-1868 to schedule this appointment.

Each year in the United States, on average, more than 20,000 children and tens of thousands of adults are hospitalized due to complications of influenza, and some die from the disease.

The children at highest risk for flu complications are infants under 6 months. These infants are too young to receive the flu vaccine; they count on their parents, other family members and out-of-home caregivers to get the flu immunization to help protect them.

For some people, influenza can be a serious disease, leading to hospitalization and even death. So, it is especially important for children starting at age six months to their fifth birthday, people 50 and older, pregnant women, and anyone with a chronic health condition such as asthma, heart disease, or diabetes be vaccinated.

Children under the age of 5, even if they are healthy, are among those at highest risk for flu-related complications such as seizures and ear infections. Deaths may also occur in children, but are less common. Kids of any age with chronic illnesses are particularly vulnerable.

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The flu, which can cause symptoms including high fever, headache, cough, nausea, weakness and muscle aches, is contagious and often transmitted through sneezing and coughing. While some people suffer mild symptoms, others are too ill to work or attend school.

Vaccination is the single best way to protect yourself and your loved ones against influenza – and the vaccine cannot give you the flu.

The flu immunization is a covered benefit for Medicare part B and Michigan Medicaid recipients. If you have private health insurance that covers the flu immunization, the Health Department may bill your health insurance. For all others the charge is $30 for adults and $13-$30 for children 6 months – 18 years of age.

For more information or to schedule an appointment, call the Health Department at (906) 774-1868.

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