



# Dickinson-Iron District Health Department

## Dickinson County

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## NEWS RELEASE

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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

## Seasonal Flu Clinics in Dickinson and Iron County

Kingsford, Michigan – September 10, 2010. The Dickinson-Iron District Health Department (DIDHD) announced plans to conduct seasonal influenza (flu) immunization clinics. Health officials state it is very important to receive the seasonal flu vaccine. Flu is a contagious disease. It is caused by the influenza virus, which can be spread by coughing, sneezing, or nasal secretions.

Infants, the elderly, pregnant women, and people with certain health conditions – such as heart, lung or kidney disease or a weakened immune system – can get much sicker. Flu can cause high fever and pneumonia, and make existing medical conditions worse. Each year thousands of people die from seasonal flu and even more require hospitalization. The single best way to protect yourself and your loved ones against the flu is to get vaccinated each year and, for the first time this flu season, it is recommended that everyone 6 months of age and older receive a seasonal flu vaccine. The DIDHD also encourages new parents, health care professionals, and those who have contact with people age 65 and older to get vaccinated to help protect these high-risk individuals.

The 2010-2011 flu vaccine will protect against three different flu viruses which includes the H1N1 virus that caused so much illness last season.

In Dickinson County the seasonal flu clinic will be held on Saturday, October 23<sup>rd</sup> from 9:00 a.m. to 12:00 noon at the Kingsford Middle School. **Please call (906) 774-1868 to schedule an appointment.**

In Iron County the seasonal flu clinic will be held in conjunction with the Northstar Health System Health Fair on Thursday, October 21<sup>st</sup> from 9:30 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. at the Elks Club in Iron River. **Please call (906) 265-4150 to schedule an appointment.**

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**After October 23<sup>rd</sup>** appointments will be taken for clinics to be held at the Crystal Falls Senior Center and Sagola Senior Center. In addition, after-school, community clinics will be held at the Forest Park School, West Iron County School, North Dickinson School and Norway School.

The seasonal flu immunization will be billed to Medicare part B, Michigan Medicaid and private health insurance. For children who do not have health insurance or their insurance does not cover the flu immunization, the Vaccines for Children (VFC) program provides flu vaccine for children and adolescents age 6 months through 18 years. There is a \$13 administration fee for this vaccine.

New this year, the health department has received flu vaccine through the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA) program for adults that do not have insurance coverage or their insurance does not cover the flu vaccine. There is a \$13 administration fee for this vaccine too.

The pneumococcal immunizations will also be available and will be billed to Medicare Part B, Michigan Medicaid, and private health insurance. If you do not have health insurance coverage or your health insurance does not cover immunizations, there is a \$13 administration fee for the vaccine.

Pneumococcal disease is a serious disease that causes much sickness and death. Pneumococcal disease can lead to serious infections of the lungs (pneumonia), the blood (bacteremia), and the covering of the brain (meningitis). Anyone can get pneumococcal disease. However, some people are at greater risk from the disease. These include smokers, people 65 and older, the very young, and people with special health problems such as alcoholism, heart or lung disease, kidney failure, diabetes, HIV infection or certain types of cancer.

Usually one dose of pneumococcal vaccine is needed. However, under certain circumstances a second dose may be given. Persons who are in the high risk category due to an illness should consult with their physician prior to receiving the pneumococcal vaccine.

Additional information about influenza is available through the Health Department's web site at [www.didhd.org](http://www.didhd.org).

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