



Dickinson-Iron District Health Department

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NEWS RELEASE

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Health Department Announces Flu Clinics

Kingsford, Michigan – September 5, 2012. The Dickinson-Iron District Health Department (DIDHD) announces plans to conduct the following community influenza (flu) immunization clinics.

Every Monday evening in October a flu clinic will be held at the Health Department from 3:30-6:00 p.m.

In Dickinson County, clinics will also be held at the Health Department on Saturday, September 22nd from 9:00 – 11:45 a.m. and on Monday, September 24th from 3:30 – 6:00 p.m.

In Iron County a clinic will be held in conjunction with the Northstar Health Care System Health Fair at the Windsor Center in Iron River on Wednesday, October 3rd from 9:45 a.m. – 4:00 p.m.

For all clinics, appointments are appreciated but walk-ins are welcome! Call (906)774-1868 or (906)265-9913.

Additional clinics will be announced at a later date for the Sagola and Crystal Falls Senior Centers and after-school hours at the following schools: West Iron County, Forest Park, Norway and North Dickinson.

The flu immunization can be billed to Medicare part B, Michigan Medicaid and most private health insurances. For persons who do not have health insurance or whose insurance does not cover immunizations, the charge is \$30 for adults for the injectable vaccine and \$35 for the Flumist, nasal vaccine. For children and adolescents 6 months to 18 years of age the charge is \$15.

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 – are at higher risk for complication from the flu virus. 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. It is recommended that everyone 6 months of age and older receive a 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 2012-2013 flu vaccine will protect against three different flu viruses including the H1N1 virus.

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The pneumococcal immunizations will be available and can be billed to Medicare Part B, Michigan Medicaid, and most private health insurances.

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.

The Tdap (Tetanus, diphtheria and pertussis) immunization will also be available and is billable to Michigan Medicaid or most private health insurances. If an adult does not have insurance coverage for immunizations the charge is \$15. The Health Department cannot bill Medicare for Tdap, but Medicare recipients are eligible for the vaccine at the \$15 charge.

Pertussis (also known as whooping cough) is a contagious disease that can be passed easily from person to person. Pertussis can cause serious illness – especially in infants who are too young to be fully vaccinated. Pertussis can cause babies to cough so much that they cannot breathe. Hundreds of babies are hospitalized each year for whooping cough, and some die from it. To protect your baby, it is recommended that new moms and everyone in the family including others that will be caring for the baby be up-to-date on their whooping cough shots.

Whooping cough can also cause adults or teens to have severe coughing that leads to vomiting or broken ribs. They can be hospitalized for pneumonia and miss weeks of work or school. Even worse, they can spread whooping cough to the babies at home.

Vaccine protection for pertussis (whooping cough), tetanus, and diphtheria fades with time, so adults need a booster shot. Experts recommend adults receive a tetanus and diphtheria booster (called Td) every 10 years and substitute a Tdap vaccine for one of the boosters. The dose of Tdap can be given earlier than the 10-year mark.

Additional information is available at the Health Department's web site at www.didhd.org.

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