



Dickinson-Iron District Health Department

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NEWS RELEASE

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Free FluMist Influenza Immunizations Offered by Health Department

Kingsford, Michigan – December 12, 2008. The Dickinson-Iron District Health Department will receive free FluMist influenza vaccine donated by MedImmune to the National Association of County and City Health Officials (NACCHO) [through a public health initiative program](#) for distribution to local health departments. The Health Department will provide this vaccine at no charge to [eligible](#) clients by appointment. Please call (906) 774-1868 or (906) 265-9913 to schedule an appointment.

FluMist is a live, attenuated influenza vaccine (LAIV) that contains live but weakened influenza virus and does not cause influenza. It is sprayed into the nostrils. The FluMist vaccine does not contain thimerosal or other preservatives.

[FluMist may not protect everyone who gets it.](#) FluMist is [not right for everyone.](#) [FluMist is](#) approved for people 2 through 49 years of age, who are not pregnant and do not have certain health conditions. [For example, the](#) ~~The~~ following people should **not get the FluMist immunization:**

- [Anyone](#) ~~People~~ with a [serious history of allergic hypersensitivity reaction](#) to eggs ~~, or other vaccine components~~ [egg proteins, gentamicin, gelatin or arginine;](#)
- [People with life-threatening reactions to previous influenza vaccinations;](#)
- [People with asthma or active wheezing, or](#) ~~Go~~ children younger than 5 with asthma or one or more episodes of wheezing within the past year;
- People who have long-term health problems with:
 - heart disease —lung disease —kidney or liver disease —asthma
 - metabolic disease, such as diabetes —anemia, and other blood disorders
- Anyone with certain muscle or nerve disorders (such as seizure disorders or cerebral palsy) that can lead to breathing or swallowing problems;
- Anyone with a weakened immune system;

- Children or adolescents ~~receiving on long term~~ aspirin ~~or aspirin-containing treatment~~therapy;
- Pregnant women.

-More-

If you or your child falls into one of these groups, be sure to tell your healthcare provider. They will decide if FluMist is right for you or your child.

-More-

Flu (influenza) is a serious disease. It is caused by a virus that spreads from infected persons to the nose or throat of others. The flu season in our local area is usually around January or February. Vaccine will begin to provide its protective effect after about one to two weeks and immunity may decrease, on average, after several months. Flu can cause fever, cough, chills, sore throat, headache and muscle aches.

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

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