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NEWS RELEASE

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Flu Immunization Clinic at the Crystal Falls Senior Center Protect Yourself and Your Loved Ones against the Flu

Iron River, Michigan – October 25, 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 conducting a flu clinic on Thursday, November 8th from 9:30 – 11:00 a.m. at the Crystal Falls Senior Center located at 601 Marquette Avenue in Crystal Falls. This is a walk-in clinic for anyone age 4 years and older. If a parent will not be accompanying their child to the clinic, a consent form must be obtained from the Health Department, signed by the parent or guardian and brought to the clinic. If your child is under the age of 4 years, please call the Health Department at (906) 265-9913 to schedule their flu immunization at the Health Department office. If you cannot attend this clinic, please call the Health Department at (906) 265-9913 to schedule an appointment at one of the office clinics.

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.

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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.

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.

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