



Dickinson-Iron District Health Department

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Zostavax (Shingles) and Pneumococcal Polysaccharide (Pneumonia) Vaccines Available Free at Health Department

Kingsford, Michigan, January 7, 2011 – The Dickinson-Iron District Health Department has received a limited number of Zostavax (shingles) and Pneumococcal Polysaccharide (Pneumonia) vaccine for persons who do not have insurance coverage for these vaccinations. This vaccine was made available through the American Recovery and Re-investment Act (ARRA). The administration fee is \$15 per vaccine.

The Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices (ACIP) to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) recommends that people age 60 and older receive the Zostavax vaccine to prevent herpes zoster, or shingles, a condition that often leads to debilitating chronic pain. Zostavax vaccine has been tested and has been found to be safe and effective in providing protection against shingles and associated chronic pain.” In clinical trials, the vaccine prevented shingles in about half of people 60 years of age and older. It also reduced post herpetic neuralgia (pain persisting after an episode of shingles) by 67 percent.

Pneumococcal disease is caused by *Streptococcus pneumoniae* bacteria. It is the leading cause of vaccine-preventable illness and death in the United States. Pneumococcal pneumonia kills about 1 out of 20 people who get it. Anyone can get pneumococcal disease, but some people are at greater risk than others: persons 19 years and older who are smokers; have asthma; with weakened immune systems; with long-term health problems; and those over 65 years old. All persons in these risk groups should receive the pneumococcal vaccine.

For more information or to make an appointment for these immunizations call the Dickinson-Iron District Health Department at (906) 774-1868 or (906) 265-4150.

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