



# Dickinson-Iron District Health Department

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## Dickinson County

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### IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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## Zostavax (Shingles) Vaccine Available Free at Health Department

Kingsford, Michigan, November 1, 2010 – The Dickinson-Iron District Health Department has received a limited number of Zostavax (shingles) vaccine doses for persons age 60 and older that do not have insurance coverage for this vaccine. This vaccine was made available through the American Recovery and Re-investment Act (ARRA)

The charge is \$13 to administer this vaccine. The Health Department is unable to bill the administration fee for this vaccine to Medicare.

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.

“Vaccines aren’t just for kids anymore and this vaccine represents an important medical breakthrough aimed at improving health in older adults,” said Dr. Anne Schuchat, director of CDC’s National Center for Immunization and Respiratory Diseases. “These vaccine recommendations address a health problem for people age 60 and older. It 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.

For more information or to make an appointment for this vaccination, call your health care provider or the Dickinson-Iron District Health Department at (906) 774-1868 or (906) 265-4150.

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