



For Release: Immediate
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Media Release

Person County Health Department Begins Annual Flu Shot Campaign

Roxboro, NC- Beginning Thursday, October 11, flu shots will be available at the Person County Health Department. The Health Department is located within the Person County Human Services Building, 355-A South Madison Boulevard and is an immunizing provider for Aetna, Blue Cross Blue Shield, Cigna, Coventry, Health Choice, Medicare, Medicaid, MedCost, and United Healthcare, and participants must bring their insurance cards with them. There will be a \$30.00 charge for all others. The flu shot is free for uninsured children who are 6 months to 18 years of age.

High-Dose Influenza Vaccine is recommended for adults over 65 and is available on a first come, first serve basis.

Routine annual influenza vaccination is recommended for all persons 6 months and older to be immunized against seasonal flu. Emphasis is placed on vaccination of high-risk groups and their contacts/caregivers because they are at greater risk of serious flu-related complications and associated death. Individuals who are:

- Children younger than 5, but especially children younger than 2 years old;
- People 50 and older;
- Women who are or will be pregnant during the influenza season for any length of time (and women up to two weeks postpartum);
- People who have any one of the following:
 - Asthma;
 - Neurological and neurodevelopmental conditions, including cerebral palsy, epilepsy, stroke, intellectual disability, moderate to severe developmental delay, muscular dystrophy, or spinal cord injury;
 - Chronic lung disease, including COPD and cystic fibrosis;
 - Heart disease/condition;
 - Blood disorders such as sickle cell disease;
 - Endocrine disorders such as diabetes mellitus;
 - Kidney disorders;
 - Liver disorders;
 - Metabolic disorders including diabetes;
 - Weakened immune system due to disease or medication (such as people with HIV or AIDS, or cancer, or those on chronic steroids);
 - Extreme obesity (BMI \geq 40);

- People younger than 19 years of age who are receiving long-term aspirin therapy or salicylate-containing medications who might be at risk for Reye syndrome;
- Residents of nursing homes and other long-term care facilities;
- American Indians/Alaska Natives; and
- Caregivers and contacts of those at risk:
 - Health care personnel in inpatient and outpatient care settings, medical emergency response workers, employees of nursing home and long term care facilities who have contact with patients or residents and students in these professions who will have contact with patients;
 - Household contacts and caregivers of children aged ≤ 59 months (5 years), particularly contacts of children aged < 6 months and adults aged ≥ 50 years; and
 - Household contacts and caregivers of persons with medical conditions that put them at high risk of severe complications from influenza.

Appointments are not required but preferred and walk-ins are welcome but are prioritized around scheduled immunization appointments. Please call (336) 597-2204 to schedule your appointment to receive your annual flu shot. Immunizations are available Monday through Friday from 8:00 a.m. - 11:30 a.m. and from 1:00 p.m. - 4:00 p.m.

During your visit, Person County Health Department staff would like to invite you to dedicate your flu vaccine “in honor of” or “in memory of” anyone that has encouraged you to receive your flu vaccine. Dedications will be posted on our immunization dedication wall.

Lastly, the Person County Health Department would like to encourage you to join us in our partnership with “FLU NEAR YOU!” Help spread the word, not the flu. Flu Near You is a community-driven website, mapping flu-like illness. You can view the map for Person County from your computer or smart phone and gain insights to protect your health. You contribute by answering a simple question once a week via email. It's free, fast and confidential. <https://flunearyou.org/#/>

If you have any questions, please call the Health Department at (336)597-2204.

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