



## **FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

**KILL DATE: (October 1, 2009)**

### **2009 Seasonal Influenza Clinics at Livingston County Department of Public Health**

HOWELL, Michigan. – September 8, 2009 (Livingston County Department of Public Health)

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) advises to begin administering seasonal influenza vaccine as soon as vaccine becomes available. It is not too soon to start vaccinating. Additionally, vaccinating now with seasonal flu vaccine will allow more time for health care providers to focus on later immunization efforts when vaccine for 2009 H1N1 virus becomes available.

The Livingston County Department of Public Health (LCDPH) will be holding a walk-in flu clinic for Adults Only on Thursday, September 24, 2009. Clinic hours will be from 10:00 a.m. until 4:00 p.m. The charge for the flu shot will be \$30 for adults. Medicare (Part B) will cover the total cost for a flu shot, but unfortunately, we will be unable to accept any Blue Cross/Blue Shield managed Medicare plans here at the health department.

Infants and children in need of flu vaccine may receive it along with any other needed vaccines during our regularly scheduled Wednesday immunization clinics beginning September 16, 2009.

Anyone who wants to reduce their chances of getting the flu should get an annual flu vaccination; however, there are certain groups of individuals who are at the highest risk of complications from influenza or are close contacts of persons at higher risk.

Those groups include:

- Children ages 6 months through 18 years
- Pregnant women
- People 50 years of age and older
- People who have long term health problems such as heart or lung disease, asthma, kidney disease, metabolic disease such as diabetes, immunodeficiency, blood disorders such as anemia, or have a condition that affects the respiratory function or increases the risk of aspiration
- Residents of long-term care facilities and nursing homes

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Flu shots are also highly recommended for people who can spread influenza to those at high risk including:

- Household contacts and caregivers of children less than 6 months of age (these children are too young to be vaccinated)
- Health care workers
- Persons who live with or care for individuals at high risk for influenza-related complications

Vaccine for H1N1 is expected in late October.

Please check [www.lchd.org](http://www.lchd.org) or call the health department at 517-546-9850 for updates about availability and clinic schedules

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