



SEDGWICK COUNTY, KANSAS
COMMUNICATIONS

NEWS

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Sedgwick County Health Department Restricts Flu Shots to "High Risk" Individuals

(Sedgwick County, Kansas) – Beginning Monday, December 8, 2003, the Sedgwick County Health Department will be restricting flu shot immunizations to those considered at "high risk."

In anticipation of an increased need for flu shots this year, the Sedgwick County Health Department ordered 60% more flu vaccine than in 2002.

However, because of increased demand from the public and limited availability of the vaccine from the Kansas Department of Health and Environment, Sedgwick County will limit immunizations to those considered at greatest risk:

- 6 months to 23 months of age
- Individuals who are 50 and older

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- Individuals in nursing homes
- Individuals with a chronic illness or a weakened immune system
- Children/teenagers on long-term aspirin therapy
- Women in their second or third trimester of pregnancy
- Health care workers, family members or anyone coming in close contact with people at risk.

The Sedgwick County Health department also suggests that everyone follow the Centers for Disease Control (CDC) recommendations during the flu season:

- Wash hands frequently
- Cover your mouth when you cough and sneeze
- Stay healthy and eat well
- Get plenty of rest
- Stay home when you are ill, to avoid spreading the virus

The Sedgwick County Health Department has already provided 12,000 flu vaccines this season. Last year, there were 10,000 flu shots administered through the Health Department.

“The Sedgwick County Health Department is working to assure that those most at-risk of flu are the highest priority for the flu shots,” said Sedgwick County Commission Chairman Tim Norton. “We urge all citizens to take extra precautions around those who are at high risk and follow the CDC’s simple disease control recommendations.”

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