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SEDGWICK COUNTY, KANSAS
COMMUNICATIONS

NEWS

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Upcoming Flu Shot Clinics in Sedgwick County

(Sedgwick County, Kansas) – The Sedgwick County Health Department will offer Influenza (Flu) Shots at special Flu Clinics throughout October in Sedgwick County. These clinics will be held at the following locations:

Evangelical Free Church 450 N. 4 th Street Clearwater, KS (620) 584-2367	Thursday, 10-23-03	2:00pm – 4:00pm
Valley Center Senior Club 316 E. Clay Valley Center, KS 755-7335	Monday, 10-27-03	9:30am – 11:30am
Stanley Health Station 1749 S. Martinson 660-7300	Thursday, 10-30-03	1:00pm – 4:00pm
Colvin Health Station 2820 S. Roosevelt 660-7300	Thursday, 10-30-03	1:00pm – 4:00pm
Viola Community Center 100 N. Drice (K-49) Viola, KS 620-584-6674	Friday, 10-31-03	9:30am – 11:30am

Flu shots can also be received at the various Health Department locations, visit the Sedgwick County Website at www.sedgwickcounty.org for locations and times.

Costs are as follows: Children ages 6 months thru 8 years (\$10.00) and all others (\$15.00). We will also offer the Pneumonia shot (\$25.00) at each clinic. We accept cash, check, MasterCard, VISA and current Medicare, Medicaid and HealthWave cards.

Before shots can be administered, the client must present an immunization consent form and HIPAA Privacy form, both signed by parent or guardian. These forms will be available the day of the event and can also be downloaded from the Sedgwick County website at www.sedgwickcounty.org.

"The Sedgwick County Health Department wants to make it easy for the citizens of Sedgwick County to receive their flu shot," said Sedgwick County Commission Chairman Tim Norton. "These flu clinics are a great way for people to receive their flu shot and not have to drive too far from home."

Influenza is a highly infectious disease of the lungs that can lead to pneumonia. Typical symptoms include fever, body aches, tiredness, cough and often a sore throat and runny nose. Complications most often occur among those 65 and older and children two years and younger. A person who receives the vaccine may contract the flu but will experience a milder case than someone who did not get the vaccine.

An annual flu shot is **recommended** for: People 50 years of age and older; residents of long-term care facilities; people who have chronic health problems, such as heart, kidney or lung disease, diabetes, asthma and anemia; people with a weakened immune system due to HIV/AIDS, long-term steroid treatment or cancer treatment; people six months to 18 years of age on long-term aspirin treatment; pregnant women who will be past the first trimester during flu season; and health care workers, family members and anyone else coming in close contact with people at risk of serious influenza

An annual flu shot is **encouraged** for: Healthy children 6-23 months of age; household contacts and out-of-home caregivers of infants 0 to 23 months of age; people who provide essential community services; people at high risk for flu complications who travel to the southern hemisphere; people living in dormitories or under other crowded conditions; and anyone else who wants to reduce his or her chance of contracting influenza.

Talk to your doctor before you receive the flu. The best time to receive your flu shot is in October and November but getting vaccinated in December can still offer you protection against the flu.

For information, please call the Health Department at 660-7300 or visit our website at www.sedgwickcounty.org.

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