



Sedgwick County...
working for you

SEDGWICK COUNTY, KANSAS
COMMUNICATIONS

NEWS

CONTACT: SEDGWICK COUNTY COMMUNICATIONS 316-660-9370 FAX: 316-383-7509

September 30, 2003

Contact: Kristi Zukovich
316-660-9370

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Sedgwick County Health Department to Offer Flu Shots, Nasal Option Will Not be Offered

(Sedgwick County, KS) The Sedgwick County Health Department will administer Influenza (Flu) Shots at a number of special Flu Clinics in Sedgwick County beginning Saturday, October 11. The Health Department chooses to offer the Flu Shot in lieu of FluMist, the nasal option, because it can be provided to a larger population and it is more cost-effective (see attached).

Costs for flu shots are as follows: Children ages 6 months thru 8 years (\$10.00) and all others (\$15.00). Pneumonia shot s (\$25.00) will also be offered at each clinic. Cash, check, MasterCard, VISA and current Medicare, Medicaid and HealthWave cards will be accepted.

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. Approximately 36,000 people died in the US last year due to complications from the flu. 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.

-more-

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. Whether you choose to receive the Flu Shot or FluMist, the Health Department encourages all able persons to receive their Flu Vaccine this Fall.

"We are glad that there is now an option for the flu vaccine for those individuals who chose to not get a shot," said Sedgwick County Commission Chairman Tim Norton. "However, it is our responsibility as a public health agency to provide the most cost effective treatment to those individuals who utilize and depend on our services."

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

-end-

	Flu Shot (inactivated virus)	FluMist (live virus)
Administration	Injection	Nasal
Ages	6 months – 65 years +	5 years – 49 years
Population recommended to receive the vaccine	Persons 50 years of age and older; residents of long-term care facilities; persons who have chronic health problems, such as heart, kidney or lung disease, diabetes, asthma and anemia; persons with a weakened immune system due to HIV/AIDS, long-term steroid treatment or cancer treatment; persons 6 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.	Healthy persons who will not be around high risk patients for 21 days after receiving the FluMist vaccine, because they may shed live virus
Population encouraged to receive the vaccine	Healthy children 6-23 months of age; household contacts and out-of-home caregivers of infants 0 to 23 months of age; persons who provide essential community services; persons at high risk for flu complications who travel to the southern hemisphere; persons living in dormitories or under other crowded conditions; and anyone else who wants to reduce his or her chance of contracting the flu.	Healthy persons who will not be around high-risk patients for 21 days after receiving the FluMist vaccine, because they may shed live virus.
Population who should not receive the vaccine	Persons who are allergic to eggs, persons experiencing a high fever and persons who have had severe reactions to the shot in the past.	Persons who are allergic to eggs or chicken feathers; persons who have a history of Guillian-Barre syndrome; persons under 18 and on aspirin therapy; pregnant or nursing mothers; persons who have a compromised or suppressed immune system (such as AIDS or cancer); persons who have a chronic disorder of the heart or lungs; persons who have required regular medical follow-up the past year due to chronic metabolic disease (such as diabetes, renal dysfunction and hemoglobinopathies) and persons who are in close contact with immunocompromised individuals.
Typical side effects	Mild case of the flu, with symptoms such as soreness, redness or swelling where the shot was given; aches and fever.	Mild case of the flu, with symptoms such as nasal congestion, runny nose, sore throat and cough.
Insurance coverage	Medicare, Medicaid and some insurance	Not yet covered by Medicare and most insurance
Patient Cost	\$15-\$35 out-of-pocket	\$45-\$60 per dose

