



*Sedgwick County...
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SEDGWICK COUNTY, KANSAS
COMMUNICATIONS

NEWS

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Sedgwick County Health Department Response to Nationwide Flu Shot Shortage

Urging all to follow CDC Guidelines

(Sedgwick County, Kansas) – The Sedgwick County Health Department has received our first shipment (4,250) flu shots from Aventis which we began giving October 1st. We have been assured by Aventis that we will receive our full order of 17,000 flu shots. At this time, the Health Department is urging high-risk individuals to please get a flu shot. Additionally, the Health Department is echoing the request from CDC, that those who are not in the priority group please forego getting their flu shots this year due to the shortage.

CDC's Recommendations

Because of this urgent situation, CDC, in coordination with its Advisory Committee for Immunization Practices (ACIP), is issuing interim recommendations for influenza vaccination during the 2004–05 season. These interim recommendations were formally recommended by ACIP on October 5, 2004, and take precedence over earlier recommendations.

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Priority Groups for Influenza Vaccination

The following priority groups for vaccination with inactivated influenza vaccine this season are considered to be of equal importance and are:

- all children aged 6–23 months;
- adults aged 65 years and older;
- persons aged 2–64 years with underlying chronic medical conditions;
- all women who will be pregnant during the influenza season;
- residents of nursing homes and long-term care facilities;
- children aged 6 months–18 years on chronic aspirin therapy;
- health-care workers involved in direct patient care; and
- out-of-home caregivers and household contacts of children aged <6 months.

Vaccination of Persons in Nonpriority Groups

Persons who are not included in one of the priority groups described above should be informed about the urgent vaccine supply situation and asked to forego or defer vaccination.

Why get a flu shot?

- On average, more than 200,000 people in the United States are hospitalized each year for respiratory and heart conditions illnesses associated with influenza virus infections, according to the CDC.
- 36,000 people die from flu each year.
- The flu costs employers about \$1 billion a year due to such factors as missed workdays and treatment, according to the American Medical Association.
- Flu shots can prevent flu.

Flu shots cost \$10 for children 6 months to 8 years and \$17 for all others. We accept cash, check, MasterCard, Visa, Medicare B, Medicaid, HealthWave, Blue Cross Blue Shield, and Coventry.

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Steps the public can take to avoid catching or spreading the flu:

- Proper hand washing with soap and warm water.
- Staying home from school or work when sick.
- Covering the mouth and nose when coughing or sneezing.

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