



Sedgwick County...
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SEDGWICK COUNTY, KANSAS
COMMUNICATIONS

NEWS

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Sedgwick County Health Department Allows Expanded Access to Flu Vaccine

Following the Guidelines Released by KDHE 12-13-2004

(Sedgwick County, Kansas) – Effective Tuesday, December 14, Sedgwick County Health Department is expanding flu shot access to the following groups:

- Adults 50 years or over
- Household contacts of high priority individuals

These two groups are in addition to the high-priority groups already targeted for vaccine, which are:

- children aged 6-23 months
- adults 65 years of age and older
- persons 2-64 years of age with underlying chronic medical conditions
- all women who will be pregnant during influenza season
- residents of nursing homes and long term care facilities
- children 6 months - 18 years of age on chronic aspirin therapy
- health care workers involved with direct hands-on patient care, especially patient care of high risk individuals
- out-of-home caregivers and household contacts of children less than 6 months of age

The Sedgwick County Health Department has received our full order of 17,000 flu shots, and we have approximately 2,000 remaining. During the past month, we have also worked to facilitate delivery of additional vaccine to providers who requested flu shots. Unprecedented efforts have been made to assure direct vaccine delivery to high-risk individuals through their health care providers including nursing homes, cancer centers, dialysis units, cardiology and pulmonary specialists and other physician offices.

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With more influenza vaccine available statewide than projected in October, coupled with decreased demand by persons in the highest risk categories for vaccination, KDHE now supports expanded access of flu vaccine to two additional groups of people this flu season. The state is expecting 90,000 doses of vaccine to be delivered by mid-January.

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 in the United States.
- The flu costs US 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.

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.

Holiday Clinical Services Hours at the Health Department

December 20th-31st Orchard Park and Evergreen Health Stations will be closed.

Main Health, 1900 E. 9th Street N.

Mondays & Tuesdays	December 20, 21, 27, 28	8am-7pm
Wednesdays	December 22, 29	Noon – 7pm
Thursdays	December 23, 30	Noon-5pm
Fridays	December 24, 31	Closed

Regular schedules will resume January 3rd for all clinical services locations.

For more information, please see the Sedgwick County Health Department webpage at www.sedgwickcounty.org.

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