



WILL COUNTY HEALTH DEPARTMENT & COMMUNITY HEALTH CENTER

Will County Health Department
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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

EASTERN WILL COUNTY SEASONAL FLU CLINIC SCHEDULED

JOLIET – The Will County Health Department is partnering with Southland Senior Services to provide an adult-only walk-in seasonal flu clinic for Eastern Will County residents.

The clinic is set for Wednesday September 23, at Southland Senior Services in Monee (25864 S. Chestnut Rd., next to the down town water tower). Clinic time is set for 9-11 a.m.

Shots will be given to adults 18 years of age and older. This clinic will provide critical immunization protection against seasonal influenza, not the novel H1N1 Swine Flu. A vaccine for the H1N1 Swine Flu virus is still undergoing clinical trials and will not be available until later this year.

A seasonal flu shot at the Southland Senior Services clinic will be \$25 without a Medicare card. If applicable, persons attending the clinic should bring their Medicare card, Social Security card and a picture I.D. HMO carriers must go to their primary care physician for your HMO to cover the cost of the flu vaccine.

The National Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) estimates that at least 85 percent of all Americans would derive significant benefit from an annual dose of seasonal flu vaccine. Seasonal influenza is estimated to impact approximately a quarter of the U.S. population annually. Complications resulting from seasonal flu produce approximately 250,000 U.S. hospitalizations and 36,000 fatalities every year.

Unlike the novel H1N1 Swine Flu, seasonal influenza most often impacts persons 65 years and older. Approximately 90 percent of fatalities produced by seasonal influenza viruses occur in the 65 and older age group.

Other population groups also face an increased risk from seasonal influenza complications, including pregnant women and persons with underlying chronic medical conditions. Persons with suppressed immunity and residents of long-term care facilities may also face special seasonal flu risks.



Public Health
Prevent. Promote. Protect.

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While a flu shot remains the best way to protect yourself against influenza, frequent hand washing with soap and warm water can also help to prevent disease transmission. Alcohol-based hand sanitizers are a good alternative when soap and warm water is unavailable. Persons are also urged to cover their coughs with a tissue (not their bare hands), and to stay home when not feeling well.

For more information about influenza, visit www.flu.gov. For general information about seasonal flu, or the novel H1N1 virus, telephone the Health Department's Immunization Information Line at 815-774-7360. For questions about immunization services provided by the Will County Health Department, telephone 815-740-8143 during regular weekly business hours.