
CLEVELAND COUNTY HEALTH DEPARTMENT

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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**Flu Vaccine Available at the Cleveland County Health Department Beginning This
Friday, September 25, 2015**

Everyone over the age of 6 months is encouraged to be immunized

(Shelby, NC)-- The Cleveland County Health Department joins the NC Division of Public Health and the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) in urging everyone to protect themselves by getting vaccinated against the flu. Everyone over the age of 6 months is encouraged to be immunized.

It is not too early. The last three flu seasons have begun early in North Carolina. During the 2014-2015 flu season, North Carolina recorded its highest number of flu associated deaths in the past six years.

The vaccine is safe and effective and the best way to protect yourself and your family from getting the flu.

In addition to vaccination, continue practicing healthy habits to protect you from flu viruses:

- Cover your nose and mouth with tissue when you cough or sneeze.
- Throw the tissue in the trash promptly after use.
- Wash your hands frequently with soap and water, especially after you cough or sneeze. Alcohol-based hand cleaners are also effective.
- Avoid touching your eyes, nose or mouth. Germs spread this way.
- Stay home if you are sick. You should stay home for at least 24 hours after your fever is gone, except to get medical care.

Flu vaccine will be available beginning Friday September 25, 2015 at the Cleveland County Health Department. The vaccine will be available Monday-Friday from 8:00 am - 4:30 pm. The vaccine is free of charge for children 18 and younger who have Medicaid, do not have insurance or are underinsured (meaning insurance does not cover the flu vaccine).

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The vaccine will also be free for uninsured (non-Medicaid) pregnant women ages 19 and older who are serviced by the health department and women ages 19 and older who have a family planning waiver and are receiving services at the health department.

If you have insurance, Medicare or Medicaid, we will bill these third party payers along with a \$15 administration fee. If you do not meet the above criteria or do not have insurance, Medicare, or Medicaid, the charge for the vaccine is \$30. We also have available a limited number of the high dose flu vaccines for those aged 65 and older. Insurance, Medicare or Medicaid can be billed for this vaccine, or the cost is \$46.

For more information and to find a link to the registration form, you may visit the Cleveland County Health Department website at www.clevelandcounty.com/cchd and click on Adult Health/General Clinic, or contact the Immunization Clinic at 704-484-5154. You may also find information regarding the flu on the CDC website at www.flu.nc.gov.

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