



Jefferson County PUBLIC HEALTH SERVICE

Public Health Facility, 531 Meade Street, Watertown, New York 13601

Media Release

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Limited No Charge Influenza Vaccinations Still Available for Children Over 3 and Adults To Assist With Preparedness Drill

Watertown, N.Y., October 19, 2012 - The Jefferson County Public Health Service (JCPHS) is able to offer a no charge influenza (flu) clinic as a one time opportunity in order to test response capabilities in a potential emergency situation where large numbers of citizens would need to be vaccinated in a short period of time. This clinic is a unique opportunity for residents to receive a flu vaccination at **no charge** to protect their health and to help our community prepare for an emergency.

The flu is more dangerous than the common cold for children. Each year, many children get sick with seasonal influenza; some of those illnesses result in death.

- Children commonly need medical care because of influenza, especially before they turn 5 years old.
- Children with chronic health problems like asthma, diabetes and disorders of the brain or nervous system are at especially high risk of developing serious flu complications.
- Each year an average of 20,000 children under the age of 5 are hospitalized because of influenza complications.

The single best way to protect against seasonal flu and its potential severe complications is to get a seasonal influenza vaccine each year. Although all people over 6 months of age should receive the yearly influenza vaccine, this drill is for those over 3 years of age. Please contact your pediatrician to schedule a flu vaccination if your child who is 6 months-3 years old has not yet received one.

Again this year JCPHS will test the emergency preparedness plan by performing a drill via flu vaccination appointments made only on the online scheduling system, eHealth. This clinic is open to children greater than 3 years old and adults. Individuals with access to a computer and an email account can schedule a no charge flu vaccine appointment on-line anytime, 24 hours a day until registration cutoff. Friends and/or family members can also schedule an appointment for those who do not have web access. The on-line service also includes information about: location and direction to the clinic, what you need to bring to your appointment, and general information about the flu. Setting up an eHealth account will also make it convenient to receive notices and schedule vaccinations in the future.

To make an appointment go to www.jcphs.org. Appointments are limited. Now is the time to protect yourself, your family, and your friends. Get the flu vaccine. If you have questions, please call 786-3720.

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