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Public Information Release

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COUNTY FLU SHOT CLINICS ANNOUNCED

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The Miami County Health District has announced their flu vaccine clinic schedule for September. In order to reach more people this year, the Health District will offer flu shots at locations in the three largest cities in the county – Troy, Tipp City, and Piqua. All three locations will be open one day only and will include both morning and evening hours to serve everyone. Clinics will be held at the Miami County Fairgrounds on September 15, the Tipp City Church of the Nazarene on September 21, and the Miami Valley Centre Mall on September 28. All three clinics will be open from 9am until noon, and from 2pm until 7pm.

Health Commissioner Jim Luken says that people should come out to one of the three clinics in September. “These will be our primary clinics for the year. Because of the parking situation at the Hobart Center, we are not able to offer flu vaccine at the Health District’s offices,” Luken said. With the addition of Childrens’ Services on the second floor, parking in and around the Hobart Center has become extremely limited.

The seasonal flu vaccine is the best way to stay healthy this flu season. The vaccine is now strongly recommended for everyone age 6 months and older. This year’s vaccine will provide protection against the H1N1 flu and two other flu strains that are already starting to circulate. It is also important to remember that last year’s flu vaccines, both the seasonal and the H1N1, will not provide protection this year. “Seasonal vaccine is just that – it’s seasonal. Every year you have to boost your protection,” reports Commissioner Luken. “We usually start flu shots in October, but we are able to start earlier this year. This is the perfect time to get the vaccine.”

The cost of the flu shot vaccine is \$20 and the nasal mist vaccine is \$30. The Health District accepts cash, check, credit card, Medicare B, Medicaid, Caresource, and Aetna. Pneumonia vaccine will be offered to eligible people at all of the clinics for a cost of \$42.

Commissioner Luken stresses how important it is for everyone, including younger people, to get the flu vaccine this year. “Our goal is to keep people healthy. Whether it’s H1N1 or another strain of the flu, vaccination is the best way to beat the flu during the fall and winter months. Our flu vaccination program keeps young people and older people healthy and saves lives,” said Luken. Every year between 3,000 and 48,000 people die from the flu in the United States. Last year the H1N1 strain alone resulted in over 12,000 deaths in the US with just over 90% of these deaths being people under the age of 65.

For more information about the flu or to complete a registration form for the seasonal flu shot clinic, visit the Health District’s website at www.miamicountyhealth.net or call 440-8105.