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Public Information Release

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MORE FLU CLINICS SCHEDULED

October 8, 2010

After holding three large flu vaccine clinics up and down the I-75 corridor, the Miami County Health District is now turning its attention to preparing smaller communities for the flu season. Last week the Health District offered flu shots in Covington at the first of four “Township Clinics” designed to make the vaccine more readily available. Health Commissioner Jim Luken says that people should come out to the Township Clinics. “In September, we were focused on vaccinating large crowds. Now we are making the vaccine available within just a few miles of your home,” Luken said. The Health District offered to hold a clinic in all of the townships that were not served by their three earlier large clinics in September. “Many of the townships were excited about bringing the vaccine right to them,” said Luken.

The Health District will be offering flu vaccine at three more Township Clinics in October:

Elizabeth Township Center
5760 Walnut Grove Road, Troy
October 18
3:30pm to 5:30pm

West Milton Municipal Building
701 South Miami Street, West Milton
October 27
3:30pm to 5:30pm

Newton Township Building
210 West Walnut Street, Pleasant Hill
October 28
3:30pm to 5:30pm

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 circulating. “Now that the weather is getting cooler, people are starting to think about the vaccine. This is the perfect time to get the shot,” reports Luken.

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 Part B, Medicaid, Caresource, Aetna, and United Health Care. Limited amounts of children’s vaccine will be available for only \$10. Pneumonia vaccine continues to be offered to eligible people at all of the clinics for a cost of \$42.



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In addition to the Township Clinics, the Health District will offer flu vaccine on a walk-in basis at their offices in the Hobart Center for County Government. Flu vaccine will be available at the Health District every Monday, Tuesday, and Wednesday from 8am until 3pm through the end of November.

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 as many as 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, visit the Health District's website at www.miamicountyhealth.net or call 440-8105.

SIDEBAR – Two School Clinics Planned

At the beginning of the flu season, the Health District offered to come to any school in the county and hold a flu vaccine clinic for students, staff, and family members. Two schools, Milton Union and Miami East, jumped on the offer from the Health District. After working on the timing of the clinics with the school nurses and Superintendents of both districts, two clinics have been scheduled. The Health District will offer flu vaccine to all Milton Union students and family members on October 19 from 1:30pm until 4:30pm at the Milton Union Middle School. Miami East will host a vaccine clinic for all students and family members on October 26 from 1:30pm until 4:30pm at the K-8 building. Informational flyers and registration forms will be sent home with students before the clinics. For more information about these school clinics, visit the Health District's website at www.miamicountyhealth.net or find them on Facebook and Twitter.