



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
December 2, 2016

CONTACT: Melissa Wade
Public Health Information Officer
412-578-8312 office
412-339-7995 cell
Melissa.Wade@alleghenycounty.us

Health Department Observing National Influenza Vaccination Week

PITTSBURGH – The Allegheny County Health Department (ACHD) is joining the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention in observing National Influenza Week, December 4th through the 10th. The week is designated to highlight the importance of continuing flu vaccination through the holiday season and beyond. The Health Department also takes this time to remind Allegheny County citizens that the flu vaccine is still available at the Health Department’s Immunization Clinic.

The clinic offers seasonal flu and high dose flu immunizations. The clinic is located at 3441 Forbes Avenue in Oakland – on the third floor. It is open weekdays from 9:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m., except for Wednesdays, when the clinic hours are 1:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m. No appointment is necessary.

“Anyone can get sick from the flu, even healthy people. Flu viruses are constantly changing. With each new flu season, different viruses can spread and they can affect different people differently,” said ACHD Director Dr. Karen Hacker. “The severity of the flu season can also vary from year to year, which is why it is important to get a flu shot every year.”

Influenza is a highly contagious upper respiratory infection that can cause mild to severe illness and is potentially fatal. Getting an annual flu vaccine is recommended for everyone six months of age and older. The Health Department will again this year offer the high dose influenza vaccine. The high dose flu vaccine is four times more concentrated than the regular flu shot, and is available only for seniors 65 years of age and older.

The price of the regular seasonal flu shot is \$26 for anyone with insurance. The high dose is priced at \$47. A limited supply of flu vaccine will be available, at no cost, to uninsured and underinsured residents of Allegheny County. Please call 412-578-8060 to see if you or your child qualifies.

The influenza vaccine is a covered benefit for people with Medicare Part B who are not in an HMO plan. Seniors with Medicare Part B that are enrolled in an HMO plan will be asked to pay for the shots at the Health Department immunization clinic, at the costs stated above. Seniors must provide their Medicare card and proper ID at the time of service.

More information is available on ACHD’s [Flu pages](#) or www.cdc.gov/flu. You can also call the Health Department’s Infectious Disease Program at 412-578-8060.

###

KAREN HACKER, MD, MPH, DIRECTOR
ALLEGHENY COUNTY HEALTH DEPARTMENT – PUBLIC INFORMATION OFFICE
542 FOURTH AVENUE • PITTSBURGH, PA 15219
PHONE (412) 687-ACHD • FAX (412) 578-8325 • WWW.ACHD.NET

