



South Central District Health

Keeping your family & community healthy
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PRESS RELEASE – For Immediate Release

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District Health Experiences Delay in Receiving Influenza Vaccine

South Central District Health has experienced a delay in receiving influenza vaccine for this year. The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention have provided assurances that an adequate supply is available for this flu season, however there are delays in shipment of vaccine. Persons seeking influenza vaccine from District Health offices are asked to call after October 30 to receive further information. As vaccine is received, specific information will be given to the public on future influenza clinic dates and times.

“District Health is working with our vaccine supplier to insure that vaccine is available to our citizens in a timely manner,” said Cheryle Becker, RN, Epidemiologist. “We appreciate the patience of our residents as we work on this very important issue.”

While getting vaccinated in October and November is best, vaccine can be administered in December and January, said Becker. During most years, influenza doesn’t peak until February, she added.

Influenza vaccine manufacturers report they expect to produce more than 100 million doses of influenza vaccine this year. This amount is at least 17 million more doses of influenza vaccine than have been distributed in any past season (83.1 million in 2003) and about 19 million more doses than were distributed last year (81.2 million).

Early in the season, some providers may appear to have more influenza vaccine than others because there are multiple manufacturers, distributors, and distribution channels -- each of which has different distribution plans and schedules. Some health care providers may not have their full allotment of vaccine until November or later, depending upon from which manufacturer or distributor an individual provider ordered vaccine and when they ordered it.

In most individuals, influenza causes fever and chills, headache, body aches, sore throat, and cough. Illness usually resolves within 2 to 7 days. Complications from influenza can include pneumonia.

During last year's influenza season, 12 Idaho residents died as a result of complications from influenza and pneumonia. This is consistent with findings from the last few seasons with an average of 12.8 deaths between the 2001-02 and 2005-06 season (range: 3 deaths to 28 deaths during those years).

It is important for all persons at high risk for influenza-related complications to receive an influenza vaccination each year. Those persons include:

- Children age 6-59 months
- Pregnant women
- Persons ages 50 or older
- Persons of any age with chronic medical conditions
- Persons who live with or care for persons at high risk of complications from influenza.

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