



1020 Washington St. N, Twin Falls, Idaho
208-737-5900 www.phd5.idaho.gov

September 17, 2008

PRESS RELEASE-For Immediate Release

Contacts: Lisa Klamm, RN, Immunization Coordinator, 436-7185 (Rupert)
Tom Machala, Division Director – 737-5963 (Twin Falls)

South Central Public Health District Ready for Seasonal Influenza Clinics

TWIN FALLS – South Central Public Health District’s (SCPHD) flu vaccination season officially kicks off the week of October 6, two weeks earlier than last year. To jump start the season, the Twin Falls, Rupert, and Burley offices will offer clinics on Friday, October 3. In addition, SCPHD will be offering clinics at senior and community centers and some schools in areas far from county offices, plus special diabetic clinics are scheduled for the weeks of November 3 to the 14th in Twin Falls, Jerome, Wendell, Burley, and Rupert; and will include eye and foot screenings. All clinics are by appointment which can be made by calling one of the offices listed below starting Monday, September 22. Besides public health and health care providers, there are other places that will be offering flu vaccinations such as pharmacies, grocery stores, and large retailers. Although the actual Flu season does not usually begin in Idaho until November and peaking in January and February, any vaccination is a good vaccination according to Lisa Klamm, SCPHD Immunization Coordinator.

- Blaine County call the Bellevue office: 788-4335
- Camas County call the Gooding Office 934-4477
- Cassia County call the Burley Office 678-8221
- Gooding County call the Gooding Office 934-4477
- Jerome County call the Jerome Office, 324-8838
- Lincoln County call the Gooding Office, 934-4477
- Minidoka County call the Rupert Office, 436-7185
- Twin Falls County call the Twin Falls Office, 737-5966

CDC is emphasizing all children under 18 be vaccinated against influenza, especially those 6 months to age 5 because they are most likely to spread the illness – plus they usually develop a strong immunity level compared to adults. Although anyone who requests a vaccination will receive one, SCPHD still emphasizes the following higher risk populations get vaccinated because of the higher risk for serious complications from influenza:

- Residents of nursing homes and long-term care facilities.
- Those with chronic long-term health problems including chronic lung disease (COPD, asthma, emphysema, etc.); congestive heart failure or congenital heart disease; diabetes or kidney dysfunction; sickle cell disease; or HIV; Women who will be at least three months pregnant during influenza season;
- Children between the ages of 6 months and 5 years (The first time children up to 8 years of age receive influenza vaccine they need two doses, given one month apart, to develop immunity); this age group is most at risk for developing complications.
- People age 50 and over.

This year, SCPHD will have of both the traditional injectable vaccine recommended for all age groups and medical conditions and FluMist, a nasal spray which is only recommended for healthy individuals between the ages of 2 and 49 years old (both have exceptions for those with egg allergies and a history of Guillian Barre Syndrome). The FDA expanded the use of nasal influenza vaccines this year to include healthy children ages 2 to 5 years. FluMist is not approved for use in children less than 2 years of age, and should not be given to anyone with asthma or children younger than 5 who have recurrent wheezing. SCPHD will have a limited supply of FluMist available upon request. Seasonal influenza immunity develops fully about two weeks after vaccination and starts to decline about six months later for injected vaccine and a year or longer for FluMist.

For more information contact Lisa Klamm, SCPHD Immunization Coordinator at 436-7185.

###