
press Release

NEWS

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:
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HEALTH DEPARTMENT ADDS ADDITIONAL FLU SHOT CLINIC

Thursday from 5-7 p.m. at Burlington Center Mall

The Burlington County Health Department will hold an additional flu vaccination clinic on Thursday, January 27th from 5-7 p.m. at the Burlington Center Mall (Route 541 in Burlington) after learning that a Burlington Township elementary school student died over the weekend from complications resulting from the flu, according to information released by the school district.

“The best method we currently have to prevent the flu is vaccination,” Burlington County Epidemiologist Jennifer Horner said. “In some cases, individuals who have been vaccinated may develop the flu but, for the majority of individuals, it is your best protection.”

According to the Centers for Disease Control (CDC), in years when the vaccine and circulating viruses are well-matched, influenza vaccines can reduce the chances of developing influenza by approximately 70 percent to 91 percent in people between the ages of one and 65.

This year’s influenza vaccine protects against an influenza A H3N2 virus, an influenza B virus, and the 2009 H1N1 virus that caused widespread illness last season. The CDC reports that this vaccine is a good match to the types of flu viruses circulating in our community this year.

Influenza vaccines have a long safety record in the United States. Adverse reactions to flu shots are rare and are usually limited to some soreness and redness at the site of the injection.

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PRESS RELEASE: Flu Shot Clinic – 1/24/11 – ADD ONE

Other parts of the country and world already are seeing a lot of flu cases this year. Pennsylvania has already reported some deaths, including of children, resulting from the flu. Great Britain has reported more than 50 deaths already from the flu this year and a sharp rise in the number of flu cases. In addition, Great Britain is experiencing a flu vaccine shortage in some areas of the country.

In Burlington County, flu season usually peaks in February so it is not too late to get vaccinated. The Health Department encourages everyone to get a flu shot; however, it's even more crucial for people who are at high risk for complications.

This includes anyone over 50; children 6 months to 5 years old; and children and adults with chronic medical conditions such as diabetes or heart disease.

Children under the age of nine who are receiving the vaccine for the first time need to have two doses at least one (1) month apart to be fully protected. Also at high risk are pregnant women and residents of nursing homes or long-term care facilities.

Along with getting vaccinated, practicing good health behaviors can help people avoid getting sick. Washing hands often with soap and warm water, covering your mouth and nose with a tissue when coughing or sneezing, and staying home when ill are recommended precautions.

For more information, contact the Health Department at 609-265-5548.

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