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**press Release**

**NEWS**

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

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**HEALTH DEPARTMENT STEPS UP FLU SHOT CAMPAIGN**

**Flu Activity On The Increase; Vaccine Still Available**

With flu activity increasing in the region, the Burlington County Health Department today put County residents on notice that vaccine is still available and it is not too late to get a flu shot.

“The good news for residents is that this years’ flu vaccine is a good match for the flu viruses that are circulating,” says Jennifer Horner, Epidemiologist for Burlington County. “So people who have not been vaccinated should get vaccinated immediately.”

The Health Department along with many other partners will be offering a week of flu shot vaccination clinics during the week of January 16-21<sup>st</sup>. For more information, residents can contact the Health Department at (609) 265-5548.

Other parts of the country and world are already seeing a lot of flu cases this year. Pennsylvania has already reported some deaths, including children, from the flu. Great Britain has reported over 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, Horner said.

The Health Department encourages everyone to get a flu shot; however, it’s even more crucial for many 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. Also at high risk are pregnant women and residents of nursing homes or long-term care facilities.

**-more-**

**PRESS RELEASE: Flu – 1/7/11 – Add One**

Along with getting vaccinated, practicing good health behaviors can help people avoid getting sick. One should wash hands often with soap and warm water, and cover their mouth and nose with a tissue when coughing or sneezing and stay home when ill.

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