



*Sedgwick County...
working for you*

SEDGWICK COUNTY, KANSAS
COMMUNICATIONS

NEWS

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November 19, 2004

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Flu Shot Clinics at Sedgwick County Health Department Beginning Monday, November 22*

(Sedgwick County, Kansas) – Sedgwick County Health Department will have flu shots for high-risk adults and children at the Main Health Department beginning **Monday, November 22**, as thousands of additional doses of flu vaccine have been received and eligibility criteria have been relaxed.

The Sedgwick County Health Department continues to work with the Medical Society of Sedgwick County Public Health Commission to distribute flu vaccine to protect those at risk for complications from flu. This week, the Health Department received 8,500 adult doses of flu vaccine from Aventis, completing the original order of 17,000. The Health Department also has nearly 700 Vaccines for Children Program flu shots for children who meet income and insurance eligibility guidelines.

In addition, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention and the Kansas Department of Health and Environment (KDHE) have offered 11,000 additional adult doses and pediatric preservative-free vaccine to local medical providers. This additional vaccine for medical providers will be available in mid-December and early January. Traditionally, the peak of flu season is in February, therefore flu shots given as late as January can still be effective and timely prevention measures.

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Who can be vaccinated? Because of this additional supply, the Medical Society of Sedgwick County's Public Health Commission have agreed to relax the most-at-risk criteria we have been following and revert to the CDC high-risk criteria:

- all children aged 6–23 months;
- adults aged 65 years and older;
- persons aged 2–64 years with underlying chronic medical conditions;
- all women who will be pregnant during the influenza season;
- residents of nursing homes and long-term care facilities;
- children aged 6 months–18 years on chronic aspirin therapy;
- health-care workers involved in direct patient care; and
- out-of-home caregivers and household contacts of children aged <6 months.

The Sedgwick County Health Department vaccine supply will be distributed as follows:

- Directly distributed to nursing homes and other long term care facilities.
- Open clinics for CDC criteria high risk populations will be held at the Main Health Department, 1900 E 9th St.
- Our special flu shot clinic hours begin the week of November 22nd. Monday and Tuesday 8am-7pm and Wednesday 8am-5pm. **There is no need to come before we open at 8:00 a.m.**
- Orchard Park and Evergreen locations will be closed November 22-26.
- SCHED will be closed Thursday and Friday, November 25-26.
- November 29th, we will resume providing flu shots during our regular hours.

Main Health

Monday, Tuesday and Friday, 8am-7pm

Wednesday and Thursday, Noon-7pm

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Evergreen Health Station

Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday & Friday, 8 – 11:30am & 1-4pm
Thursday, 1-4pm

Orchard Park Health Station

Monday, Wednesday & Friday, 8-11:30am & 1-4pm

Flu shots cost \$10 for children 6 months to 8 years and \$17 for all others. We accept cash, check, MasterCard, Visa, Medicare B, Medicaid, HealthWave, Blue Cross Blue Shield, and Coventry.

Those seeking flu shots are encouraged to wear clothing that will allow them to show their upper arm without having to undress, as shots will be given in the auditorium at Main Health.

Many who usually get flu shots may still not be able to get a shot this year. There are steps each of us can do to stay healthy during flu season.

- Clean your hands
- Avoid touching your eyes, nose or mouth
- Cover your mouth and nose
- Stay home when you are sick
- Stay away from cigarette smoke or quit smoking
- Protect babies by breastfeeding

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***MEDIA NOTE: Please be sure to indicate that flu shots will not be available until Monday, November 19 in order to avoid people showing up for shots today.**