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SEDGWICK COUNTY, KANSAS
COMMUNICATIONS

NEWS

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Sedgwick County to Participate in National Vote & Vax Campaign

(Sedgwick County, Kansas) – During this year’s presidential election, more than 125 million Americans are expected to pass through polling places – and two-thirds of them are likely to be age 50 and older. To take advantage of this unique opportunity, nearly 200 flu shot clinics will be taking place at or near polling sites, including two in Sedgwick County. The “Vote & Vax” sites will be at the Sedgwick County Zoo and the other at the Health Department’s East 9th location.

Both Sedgwick County Vote & Vax sites will offer shots from 8:30 a.m. – 4:30 p.m. Medicare, Medicaid, Cash, Check and most insurance will be accepted as forms of payment. The price for flu shots will be \$30.00 for persons of nine years of age and older, \$15.00 for persons six months to eight years of age.

“Making flu shots more convenient is a proven way to increase the number of people vaccinated. The more people vaccinated, the more the community as a whole is protected,” says Sedgwick County Commission Chairman Tom Winters. More than 200,000 people are hospitalized each year as a result of the flu in the United States.

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Vote & Vax clinics are part of an innovative non-partisan, non-political national public health strategy, sponsored by the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation (RWJF) and Sickness Prevention Achieved through Regional Collaboration (SPARC). Launched in 1996 by SPARC, the Vote & Vax project was established as a project to increase access to the flu vaccine, with a focus on reaching older Americans. This year marks a record number of clinics and states participating in this project.

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) recommends that all adults aged 50 and older get an annual influenza vaccination. For the 2006-2007 flu season, less than half of adults (36%) aged 50 to 64 received an influenza vaccination, according to available CDC data.

For more information about Vote & Vax, including information on clinic locations, please visit www.voteandvax.org. To learn more about the Sedgwick County Health Department's Immunization Program, visit www.sedgwickcounty.org.

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