



NEWS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

CONTACT: María Peinado
Public Health Information Officer
mariapeinado@co.imperial.ca.us

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PHONE: (760) 482- 4461

IMPERIAL COUNTY PREPARES FOR UPCOMING FLU SEASON

The Public Health Department will start offering flu shots to individuals six months and older on Tuesday, October 4th at 8 a.m. A Drive-Thru Flu Clinic is scheduled for Saturday October 29th at the IV Expo.

IMPERIAL COUNTY – The Imperial County Public Health Department announced today that it would start administering flu shots on Tuesday October 4th to individuals six months and older. The Department will host three separate flu clinics in October including a Drive-Thru Flu Clinic at the Imperial Valley Expo on Saturday October 29th. Flu shots for seniors will begin on Monday October 10th at regularly scheduled Senior Clinics throughout Imperial County. This year’s flu vaccine will protect against both seasonal flu and H1N1. The Public Health Department will be offering the whooping cough and pneumonia vaccines at its scheduled flu clinics (except at the drive-thru).

Dr. Stephen Munday, Public Health Officer stated, “Since the flu vaccine takes about two weeks to become effective, the Public Health Department strongly advises all individuals who are eligible to get their flu shots early to lessen their risk of contracting the flu this flu season and in preparation for the Holiday season. The Department is extremely excited about partnering with the Imperial Valley Expo and other local providers to host the Drive-Thru Flu Clinic once again this year.” Flu activity in the United States generally peaks between late December and early March.

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The Public Health Department-sponsored flu clinics will be held on the following dates:

- **Tuesday, October 4th** from 8:00 am - 5:00 pm (Public Health Dept.)
- **Tuesday, October 11th** from 1:00 pm – 7:00 pm (Public Health Dept.)
- **Saturday, October 29th** from 7:30 am – 11:30 am (I.V. Expo in Imperial)

The clinics will take place at the Imperial County Public Health Department's Training Center located at 935 Broadway in El Centro. There is no appointment necessary to get a flu shot at any of the scheduled clinics. The clinics will also offer state-purchased pneumococcal vaccine. The cost for receiving the flu shot will be \$5.00 and \$15.00 for the pneumococcal vaccine (payments in cash or check preferred). The slight increase in price this year is due to the need to recover the cost to administer the vaccine and vaccination supplies.

The Public Health Department will be hosting its fifth Drive-Thru Flu Vaccination Clinic on Saturday, October 29th from 7:30 am to 11:30 am at the IV Expo (fairgrounds) in Imperial. This is a flu shot-only clinic event that is coordinated in collaboration with the Imperial Valley Expo, local healthcare providers and other partner agencies. Individuals attending this clinic should arrive in a vehicle and expect to stay with their vehicle while at the clinic. It is recommended that those who attend for a flu shot wear short sleeve shirts.

Flu shots will be available at the Public Health Department on a walk-in basis during regular work hours (Monday through Friday from 8:00 am to 12:00 pm and 1:00 pm to 5:00 pm) starting Wednesday, October 12th. Flu Clinics for seniors are being held in various areas of the County. In addition, flu vaccine is available with local physicians and community clinics. Individuals who wish to receive the flu shot from their doctor will need to contact their healthcare provider directly about the availability of flu vaccine.

According to the Federal Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), every year in the United States, an average 5% to 20% of the population gets the flu; more than 200,000 people are hospitalized from flu complications, and about 36,000 people die from the flu each year. Some people, such as older adults, young children, and people with certain health conditions, are at higher risk for suffering serious

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complications from the flu. Influenza is an acute respiratory illness that is spread from infected persons to the throat or nose of others. Signs and symptoms of the flu include fever, headache, extreme tiredness, dry cough, sore throat, runny or stuffy nose, and muscle aches. For more information regarding the flu clinics or the flu vaccine please contact the Imperial County Public Health Department's Immunization Program at (760) 482-4906 or send an email to angelaramirez@co.imperia.ca.us

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(See attached flyer for detailed information)