



**Public Health**  
Prevent. Promote. Protect.

Shawnee County Health Department

Shawnee County Health Department  
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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE  
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## MEDIA RELEASE

### Health Department to offer free Flu vaccine to community

Topeka, Kan. – Due to the increase in flu activity in our community and across the State the Shawnee County Health Department (SCHD) will begin offering **FREE** flu vaccine to anyone six months and older **starting Monday February 4, 2019**, while supplies last.

Even though this year's current flu severity is lower than last season's, flu is still taking a serious toll according to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC). So far during this flu season (October 1, 2018 through January 19, 2019) the CDC estimates that there have been up to 11.4 million flu illnesses, 5.4 million flu medical visits, and 136,000 flu hospitalizations across the United States. The CDC recommends that the best way to prevent flu is by getting vaccinated each year.

The flu shot will cause antibodies to develop in the body after vaccination. These antibodies provide protection against infection from the flu virus. The flu contributes to approximately 39,000 deaths in the United States every year.

Anyone can visit our immunization clinic at 2115 SW 10<sup>th</sup> Ave during regular clinic hours (see below) to receive their flu shot, no appointment is needed. For more information about getting a flu shot from SCHD call 251-5605.

#### **Immunization Clinic Hours:**

Monday, Thursday, Friday  
8:00 am - 4:00 pm

Tuesday  
10:00 am - 6:00 pm

Wednesday  
8:00 am - 11:00 am  
2:00 pm - 4:00 pm

Additionally SCHD encourages residents to take the following steps to help minimize the spread of germs:

- Avoid close contact when possible
- Wash your hands
- Cover your cough
- Stay home if you are sick
- Avoid touching your eyes, nose or mouth
- Regularly practice good health habits

For more information visit the CDC's flu homepage: <http://www.cdc.gov/flu/>