

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE 10/11/2021

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MEDIA RELEASE

Shawnee County Health Department to Start Flu Shots Monday October 11

Topeka, Kan. – Fall is upon us, which means so is flu season. Flu vaccines have just arrived at the Shawnee County Health Department (SCHD), and SCHD will begin giving flu shots to anyone six months and older starting today Monday October 11th, 2021 with or without insurance.

Flu vaccines are available at our Clinical Services Division, 2115 SW 10th Ave, by appointment only. Individuals can call 785.251.5700 to schedule an appointment for the following clinic hours:

Monday, Thursday, Friday 8:00am - 11:00am 1:00pm - 4:00pm **Tuesday** 10:00am - 1:00pm 3:00pm - 6:00pm Wednesday 8:00am - 11:00am 2:00pm - 4:00pm

This year's vaccination protects against 4 strains of seasonal flu. The flu shot will cause antibodies to develop in the body after vaccination. These antibodies provide protection against infection from the flu virus. CDC recommends everyone 6 months and older be vaccinated against flu.

It continues to be extremely important to protect those at higher risk for flu complications. Many of these people are also at high risk for COVID-19 illness or other serious outcomes. It is also important for caregivers and essential workers to protect themselves and those around them from flu by getting a flu vaccine.

In addition to getting vaccinated, SCHD encourages residents to take the following steps to help minimize the spread of germs:

- Wash your hands
- Cover your cough
- Stay home if you are sick

For more information on seasonal flu visit the CDC Seasonal Flu webpage: <u>https://www.cdc.gov/flu/about/keyfacts.htm</u>.

Children must be accompanied by a parent/guardian and everyone entering the building over the age of 2 is required to wear a mask. If accommodations are needed due to a medical condition please call 785.251.5700.

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Shawnee County Health Department is committed to working in partnership with our community to promote and protect the optimal health of all people by bridging gaps to eliminate health inequities, respecting the diversity of our community, through adaptive and innovative processes.