



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:
December 10, 2014

CONTACT:
Dan Reynolds
(231) 547-7629
d.reynolds@nwhealth.org



HEALTH
DEPARTMENT
of Northwest Michigan

www.nwhealth.org

Health Department encourages flu shots in spirit of Influenza Vaccination Week

CHARLEVOIX – Since vaccination is the single best way to prevent the spread of influenza illness, Michigan Governor Rick Snyder proclaimed the week of December 7-13 as Influenza Vaccination Week throughout the state. Only 46 percent of the targeted population was vaccinated last year.

Dr. Joshua Meyerson, Medical Director of the Health Department of Northwest Michigan, urges everyone six (6) months of age and older to get vaccinated for the seasonal flu. He said not nearly enough people in Northern Michigan receive the vaccine.

“Not only does vaccination prevent influenza and related complications, it can also save lives,” said Meyerson, who noted that young children and older adults may be more vulnerable. “Everyone should be vaccinated to prevent the spread of illness.” Current statewide flu statistics are available at www.michigan.gov/flu.

The vaccine, which offers protection through the entire flu season, is available in two forms: the flu shot or nasal -spray. The shot is approved for everyone ages six (6) months and older, whereas the nasal -spray is approved for healthy individuals 2-49 years old who are not pregnant. Those interested in the vaccine should contact their physician or the Health Department. Each costs \$30 at the Health Department; Medicaid, Medicare, and private insurance are accepted.

The Health Department also offers additional vaccines, such as those for pertussis (whooping cough), measles, and tetanus. Immunization clinics are held regularly at its offices in Bellaire, Mancelona, Charlevoix, Petoskey/Harbor Springs, and Gaylord. Businesses interested in hosting a clinic are encouraged to contact the Health Department.

For more information or to schedule an appointment, call the Health Department at (800) 432-4121. Visit www.nwhealth.org for details on additional flu clinics being offered throughout the area. To read more about Influenza Vaccination Week in Michigan, visit www.michigan.gov.

The Health Department of Northwest Michigan is mandated by the Michigan Public Health Code to promote wellness, prevent disease, provide quality healthcare, address health problems of vulnerable populations, and protect the environment for the residents and visitors of Antrim, Charlevoix, Emmet, and Otsego Counties.