



CATAWBA COUNTY

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Public Health

FLU VACCINATION CLINICS STARTING IN OCTOBER

HICKORY, NC – Catawba County Public Health is once again encouraging everyone to arm themselves against the flu by receiving a flu vaccine this year. The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) recommends flu vaccination for everyone age 6 months and older.

The 2011-2012 flu vaccine will protect against H1N1 and two other influenza viruses (the H3N2 virus and an influenza B virus). For most people, that means only one vaccine will be required. As usual, children under age nine who have never received a flu vaccine should receive two doses.

A new high-dose flu vaccine, which contains four times the amount of antigen (the part of the vaccine that prompts the body to make antibodies) contained in regular flu shots, will be available this year for adults age 65 and older. The higher dose is designed to provide a stronger immune response in older adults, therefore providing better protection against the flu.

Beginning October 10, Catawba County Public Health will operate a walk in-flu clinic at its location behind Catawba Valley Medical Center. The clinic will be open Monday through Friday from 8:15 a.m. to 4:45 p.m., and no appointment is necessary. However, for children 6 months through 35 months of age, an appointment is required and can be made by calling the Catawba County Public Health Immunization Clinic at (828) 695-5800.

The costs for flu shots are \$21 for the regular shot and \$37 for the high-dose shot. Pneumonia shots will also be offered for \$65. Forms of payment accepted include cash, check, Medicare Part B (only), and Medicaid. Medicare Advantage and other insurance plans will not be accepted; however, individuals may pay and then file with their insurers for possible reimbursement. Children 6 months through 18 years of age who are Medicaid eligible or uninsured will receive vaccine at no charge.

Public Health will also offer community clinics at the following locations:

- October 6: Senior Health Fair at the Health First Center, Valley Hills Mall, 10 a.m.-2 p.m.
- November 1: Health Fair at Rehobeth United Methodist Church in Terrell, 8 a.m.-12 noon
- November 10: Cholesterol Screening at the Health First Center, Valley Hills Mall, 7-9 a.m.

For more information about flu prevention and vaccination, please call Catawba County Public Health at (828) 695-5800 or visit www.catawbacountync.gov/phealth.



"Leading the Way to a Healthier Community"
www.catawbacountync.gov/phealth

