

News Release

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Clark County Health District running low on flu immunizations

(Las Vegas, Nev., - December 5, 2003) – The Clark County Health District is currently running low on flu immunizations. Local public health officials are trying to obtain more vaccine at this time, but announcements from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention indicate that most available supplies have already been distributed.

In response to the shortage the health district will only offer vaccinations at the Ravenholt Public Health Center beginning Monday, December 8, 2003. The center is located at 625 Shadow Lane and is open from 8 a.m. until 4:30 p.m. The public may call the Immunization Clinic at 383-1351 to check on availability of vaccine.

“Based on the current demand we will probably deplete our supply of the vaccine before the end of next week,” said Dr. Kwalick, chief health officer for the health district. “The positive side of this situation is that the health district will have immunized more than 25,000 people early in the flu season,” said Kwalick.

People who do not receive the vaccine can take other precautions to protect themselves from illness this winter:

- Clean your hands often – with soap and water, or with an alcohol-based, waterless hand sanitizer.
- Cover your nose and mouth with a tissue, whenever you cough or sneeze. And then throw the tissue away.
- If you don’t have a tissue, cough or sneeze into your sleeve.
- If you are ill, avoid crowds and stay home from work if possible to limit the spread of disease.

Additionally, the health district is offering the following guidelines for accessing care, since emergency departments are typically overcrowded during the flu season:

(more)

Seek treatment at an urgent care center for injuries or illnesses that are not life threatening but need immediate attention. Typical complaints that are appropriate for urgent care include:

- Lacerations (deep cuts or wounds that may require stitches)
- Sprains, strains or contusions (deep bruises)
- Mild to moderate asthma attacks
- Ear infections
- Urinary tract infections
- Upper respiratory infections
- Coughs and congestion
- Diarrhea
- Sore throats
- Insect bites
- Rashes

Seek Treatment at an emergency department if you or someone else experiences a **life-threatening** illness or injury. Call 9-1-1 to get professional help immediately. Examples of life threatening symptoms include:

- Severe bleeding
- Difficulty breathing
- Chest pain or pressure
- Broken bones
- Partial or total amputation of a limb
- Trauma or injury to the head
- Sudden dizziness or difficulty seeing
- Severe abdominal pain

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