

September 26, 2005

From: The Branch-Hillsdale-St. Joseph Community Health Agency

Media Contact: John Robertson, Director of Health Promotion & Education - Phone: 517-279-9561 Ext. 144

What: Flu clinics will be offered by the Health Department beginning in October. Shots are restricted until October 24, 2005.

Cost: Flu vaccines from the Community Health Agency this year will cost \$20.00. If you have Medicare Part B and you bring your card, there is no charge for your shot.

Vaccination this year will occur in 2 “waves” – the first wave will be from October 1 through October 23, 2005 and is for high risk clients only.

High risk categories include:

- people aged 65 years and older, with and without chronic health conditions
- residents of long-term care facilities
- people aged 2–64 years with chronic health conditions
- children aged 6–23 months and pregnant women
- health-care personnel who provide direct patient care
- household contacts and out-of-home caregivers of children less than 6 months of age

2nd Wave – October 24 and beyond - All other persons wishing to receive a flu shot

Last year in our tri-county area more than 6,000 people went to their doctor with flu-like symptoms. In a bad flu season, more than 30,000 in our 3 county region will get the flu.

Symptoms of Flu

- High fever, runny or stuffy nose
- muscle aches
- Nausea, vomiting, and diarrhea (more common in children)
- headache
- extreme tiredness
- dry cough; sore throat

St. Joseph County Flu clinic schedules

Sturgis Clinic
209 W. Hatch St.
269-659-4013 x 108 or 121

Oct 7. 7:00-2:00
Oct. 14 7:00-3:00
Oct. 28 7:00-2:00
Nov. 4 7:00-2:00
Nov. 11 9:00-2:00

Three Rivers Clinic
1110 Hill Street
269-273-2161 x 207 or 208

Oct. 10 8:00-3:30
Oct. 21 8:00-3:00
Oct. 31 8:00-3:00
Nov. 7 8:00-3:00
Nov. 14 10:00-5:00

All clinics are scheduled, appointments are required to make clinics run quickly and reduce wait time for clients. For more information about the flu, clinic schedules, and other health information, please visit our web site at

WWW.BHSJ.ORG