

Dec. 14, 2007

News media calls to David Hass at (630) 682-7979, ext. 7374.

DuPage County Health Department reminds residents 'there is still time to get a flu shot'

Question: Is there still time to get a flu shot?

Health department: Yes. We highly recommend getting a flu shot now. There is plenty of vaccine available and many places across DuPage County are offering flu shots. Influenza illness can occur from November until May. Most cases occur in January or February. On average, 226,000 people are hospitalized every year because of influenza and 36,000 die, mostly elderly. Flu remains a public health threat.

Question: Where is the best place to get a flu shot?

Health department: The DuPage County Health Department has formed a unique partnership this year with Dominick's and Osco Drug Pharmacy, as well as Central DuPage Hospital, to encourage people to get their flu shots. People getting their flu shots at Dominick's or Osco through the end of 2007 will receive an appreciation coupon for \$5 off their next in-store purchase. We encourage people to get a flu shot at any location that is convenient for them.

Question: What else can I do to prevent the flu?

Health department: Practice good hygiene, which includes washing your hands frequently, covering your cough and staying home if you are ill.

Question: Will I get the flu from the flu shot?

Health department: This is a common misconception. The viruses in inactivated influenza vaccine have been killed, so you cannot get influenza from the vaccine.

For information on flu shots call the health department at (630) 682-7400.

"We promote health, prevent illness and provide quality service"