December 6-12 is National Influenza Vaccination Week

December 7, 2020 – The Kane County Health Department (KCHD) reminds residents that there is still time to schedule a flu shot. This week has been designated National Influenza Vaccination Week. The need for a flu shot is even more important this year due to the presence of coronavirus. The health department warns that flu and COVID-19 each can cause serious respiratory illness and co-infection could possibly lead to more severe illnesses, hospitalization, and even death.

The Kane County Health Department has a limited amount of influenza vaccine available. Call KCHD at 630-208-3801 for eligibility and to schedule an appointment. More information on the types of flu vaccine is provided on the Kane County Health Department website at KaneHealth.com/Pages/Flu.aspx.

To find additional locations to get a flu shot in your community, check with your health care provider or use the online Vaccine Finder at VaccineFinder.org. In addition, local clinics like VNA Health Care (vnahealth.com), the Greater Elgin Family Care Center (gefcc.org) and Aunt Martha's Health and Wellness (auntmarthas.org) provide appointments for flu shots.

Everyone six months of age and older should get the seasonal flu vaccine. The vaccine is available as either a flu shot or in a nasal spray. Talk with a health care provider about what type is most appropriate for you.

In addition to getting your flu vaccine, KCHD recommends following the 3 W's for both COVID- 19 and influenza: WASH your hands, WATCH your distance and WEAR your mask.

Viruses spread when people who are infected cough, sneeze, or talk. Flu usually comes on suddenly. Many of the symptoms of flu and COVID-19 are the same, such as fever and cough, but there are some differences. If you have symptoms of either flu or COVID-19, self-isolate and contact a health care provider.

(more)

Symptom Comparison

Here is a quick look at influenza versus COVID-19 symptoms:

SYMPTOMS Symptom onset	FLU 2 days	COVID-19 2 – 14 days
Body Aches	Common	Common
Cough	Common	Common
Fatigue/weakness	Common	Common
Fever/chills/shaking	Common	Common
Shortness of breath or difficulty breathing	Common	Common
Stuffy nose	Common	Common
Sore throat	Common	Common
Headache	Common	Common
Diarrhea	Sometimes	Sometimes
Loss of taste or smell	Rare	Sometimes
Sneezing	Sometimes	Rare

COVID-19 Testing

The free drive-through COVID-19 testing site at the Chicago Premium Outlets in Aurora is located at 2450 N. Farnsworth Ave. in Aurora, across from the Chicago Premium Outlets. The site is open 7 days a week from 8 a.m. until 4 p.m.

Additional testing options are available in Kane County. For more information about all available testing sites in Kane County, visit the IDPH website at dph.illinois.gov/covid19/covid-19-testing-sites.

Many healthcare providers in Kane County also have COVID-19 testing available. Please contact your provider or the facility to ask about testing criteria and appointment availability. For additional information and current updates on the COVID-19 situation, visit the KCHD website at KaneHealth.com or call the health department at 630-208-3801.

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