



JOHNSON COUNTY HEALTH DEPARTMENT

dedicated to the prevention of disease and promotion of wellness for our community.

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

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JOHNSON COUNTY HEALTH DEPARTMENT URGES YOU TO GET YOUR ANNUAL FLU VACCINE

(OLATHE, KS – OCTOBER 1, 2008) The flu season is almost here once again. The Johnson County Health Department urges you to receive an annual flu shot. Every year in the United States, on average:

- 5% to 20% of the population get the flu;
- More than 200,000 people are hospitalized from flu complications, including 20,000 children; and
- About 36,000 people die from flu.

“One of the best ways to protect against the flu is to get vaccinated each year when the vaccination becomes available” states Leon F. Vinci, Director of Public Health, Johnson County Health Department. The flu season varies each year and generally peaks in January or later. The flu is typically spread from one person to another from coughing and sneezing. Washing your hands is a great way to prevent the flu.

People who should get vaccinated each year are: Children 6 months through 18 years of age, Pregnant women, People 50 years of age and older, People of any age with certain chronic medical conditions, and People who live in nursing homes and other long-term care facilities.

People who live with or care for those at high risk for complications from flu, including:

Household contacts of persons at high risk for complications from the flu (see above), household contacts and out-of-home caregivers of children less than 6 months of age (these children are too young to be vaccinated), and Healthcare workers.

For information on flu vaccine availability, call the **flu hotline at (913) 826-1263** (informational recording only).

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