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MEDIA RELEASE

Information **Advisory** **Warning** **Update**

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FOR MORE INFORMATION CONTACT:

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St. Clair County Health Department Encourages Flu Vaccination

Flu season is starting soon and it doesn't matter where an individual receives a flu vaccine; their doctor's office, pharmacy or local health department; what matters is getting it done. Flu vaccine options are plentiful in St. Clair County. Stay protected, get vaccinated.

Dr. Annette Mercatante, Medical Health Officer of the St. Clair County Health Department stated, "*It is very important for all people 6 months and older is to get a flu vaccine every year. Flu vaccines stimulate your body's own natural immune system to develop antibodies. These antibodies provide protection against infection by circulating influenza viruses that can start any time after October. It takes your body at least 2 weeks to create these protective antibodies after a vaccine, so consider getting vaccinated sooner than later.*"

Mercatante further explained, "*Last year at this time, we saw a reduction in county flu cases because most were masking, vigilant about handwashing, physical distancing and staying in more to protect against COVID, but these actions also protect against other respiratory illnesses like Influenza. Currently these disease reduction strategies are not at the same caliber, so its critical people get their flu vaccination and practice good hygiene measures to help protect themselves from getting sick.*"

The St. Clair County Health Department and Teen Health locations (Port Huron, Marysville, Capac, Yale and SC4) are offering a variety of flu vaccinations by appointment (while supplies last) including:

- Quadrivalent enhanced (age 65 and older)
- Standard-dose Quadrivalent (age 6 months and older)
- Quadrivalent egg-free (age 2 years and older)
- Flu Mist Quadrivalent (ages 2 through 49 years old)

Appointments can be scheduled by calling (810) 987-5300 (Main office-all ages) or (810) 987-1311 (Teen Health- ages 10-21). There are no out of pocket costs for vaccination. Insurance will be billed.

For more information, contact the SCCHD Flu Hotline (810) 966-4161 or websites www.scchealth.co or www.beattheflu.org. Follow us on social media @scchdmi.

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