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Health Department Offers Free Flu Vaccine Clinics for Children 2-18

Westminster, MD (October 29, 2015) The Carroll County Health Department is offering two free flu vaccine clinics for children ages 2 through 18 who are not able to get the FluMist at the public elementary school clinics.

The flu vaccination clinics are scheduled for Monday, November 9 and Wednesday, December 9, both from 3:00 -7:00 PM. They will be held at the Health Department, 290 South Center Street, Westminster. Supplies may be limited.

A nationwide delay in FluMist production caused the county's elementary school FluMist clinics to be rescheduled for November. Middle School FluMist clinics were cancelled.

Children who are already registered to receive FluMist at their elementary school should not attend this clinic. All necessary FluMist doses have already been reserved for the elementary school clinics.

The Health Department clinics will offer FluMist first, but flu shots will be available for children who should not get the FluMist because of health conditions or other reasons.

There are some special considerations for younger children receiving the flu vaccine:

- Children 6 months to 2 years of age should see their primary care provider to get a flu vaccine. The Health Department does not currently have flu vaccine for children under age 2.
- Children age 2 to 3 will only be able to receive the FluMist at this clinic. The Health Department does not currently have flu shots for children under age 3.
- Children ages 2 to 8 who are getting the flu vaccine for the first time will need two doses of the shot or FluMist, at least 28 days apart. They can come to both clinics.

Children may also get their flu vaccination from their primary care provider, urgent care clinics, or, for ages 9 and up, many pharmacies. For a list of area locations offering flu vaccinations, people can go to the Health Department website or <http://flushot.healthmap.org/>. They should call ahead to make sure the flu vaccine is available, and that the facility accepts their insurance.

To prevent the spread of flu:

- Get the flu shot.
- Wash your hands often.
- Avoid close contact with sick people.
- Stay home if you are sick – protect others.
- Learn more about flu prevention and care at www.flu.gov

Check the Health Department website, <http://www.carrollhealthdepartment.dhmh.md.gov> and Facebook page <http://www.facebook.com/CarrollCountyHealthDeptMD> or call 410-876-2152 for updates on flu vaccination clinics.

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