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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Contact: Nicole Maher, PIO
Humboldt County Health Board
Phone: (775) 761-2624
Email: nicole.maher@humboldtcountynv.gov

ALL HUMBOLDT COUNTY RESIDENTS ENCOURAGED TO PARTICIPATE IN DRIVE-THRU FLU SHOT CLINIC

WINNEMUCCA, Nev—Even as the world—and Humboldt County—contend with a surge in coronavirus infections amid the highly infectious delta variant, health experts are warning of a potentially difficult flu season ahead.

That's according to officials from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention who say it's likely that flu viruses and the virus that causes COVID-19 will both be spreading this fall and winter.

Humboldt County Health Nurse Marsha Foreman, RN, said while getting a flu vaccine will not protect against COVID-19, the flu vaccine is known to reduce the risk of flu illness, hospitalization and death. Plus, it will help conserve potentially scarce healthcare resources.

"It's difficult to predict what will happen during the 2021-22 flu season," said Foreman, "but the CDC is preparing for flu virus circulation to return to pre-pandemic levels, and that means we cannot relax our guard with regard to the flu shot."

The annual Drive-Thru Flu POD has been scheduled for 4 p.m. to 8 p.m. Wednesday, September 29, at the indoor Winnemucca Event Center, located at 1000 Fairgrounds Road.

In all, approximately 800 vaccines will be given to local residents at no cost. All participants will remain in their vehicles; no appointment is necessary.

The vaccinations are provided by the Nevada Division of Public and Behavioral Health; Foreman, her staff, and a small army of volunteers will oversee the distribution.

Foreman said all participants must wear a mask and bring their own pen, to limit transmission of COVID-19. All persons age 6 months and older are recommended for the vaccine, especially children, people age 65 and older, pregnant women, and those with a weakened immune system.

She also urged those who have not received the COVID-19 vaccine to call her office for an appointment at (775) 623-6575. The two-dose Moderna and Pfizer vaccines have proven the most effective against the delta variant.

“This is like battening down the hatches in preparation for a storm,” said Foreman. “The best precautions you can take include getting the flu shot, a COVID vaccine, wearing a mask, and if you are ill, limiting your contact with others as much as possible.”

Persons with suspected or confirmed COVID-19, regardless of whether they have symptoms, should not get a flu vaccine until they have met the criteria to discontinue their isolation; this will help prevent any potential exposure to COVID-19 by healthcare personnel and other participants.

Foreman also reminded residents that a prior infection with suspected or confirmed COVID-19 or flu does not protect a person from future flu infections. “The best way to prevent seasonal flu is to get vaccinated every year,” she said.

For questions, please call the Community Health Clinic at (775) 623-6575 or email vaccine@humboldtcountynv.gov. Se habla español.

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