ONEIDA COUNTY
HEALTH DEPARTMENT

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To protect, nurture, and advance
the health of our community

For Immediate Release
Contact: Oneida County Health Department, 715-369-6111
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FIGHT THE FLU: GETTING INFLUENZA VACCINE IMPORTANT DURING COVID-19 PANDEMIC

With flu season right around the corner, Oneida County Health Department wants to express the importance of getting your influenza vaccine, especially during the continued COVID-19 pandemic.

Seasonal flu illnesses and COVID-19 both spread easily from person to person, but are caused by different viruses. Their similar symptoms may confuse people, delay diagnosis, or overwhelm testing centers and health care providers. Fortunately, like COVID-19, there are vaccines to protect against influenza. Flu vaccines can prevent flu-related illness, hospitalizations and deaths, which will reduce the strain on health care workers, clinics and hospitals during the COVID-19 pandemic. Below are responses to common questions about the flu vaccine:

Why is it important for my family and me to get our flu vaccines this year?
- It is important to get your flu vaccine every year, but this year is especially important because we want to avoid getting sick when many hospitals and health care providers are busy responding to the COVID-19 pandemic.
- Give yourself some peace of mind. By protecting yourself against getting sick from the flu, you will have one less thing to worry about.
- Protecting yourself from getting the flu can help keep you from spreading it to those around you.

Who should get a vaccine?
- Everyone who is age 6 months and older is strongly recommended to get a flu vaccine.
- If you have an egg allergy, talk to your physician, there are safe flu vaccines for you.
- If you had a reaction to a flu vaccine in the past, talk with a doctor or pharmacist about which of the flu vaccines is best for you.

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100 W. Keenan Street
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Monday – Friday 8:00AM-4:30PM

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When should we get our flu vaccines?

- It is important to protect yourself and those around you before the flu starts to spread in your community. Since it takes about two weeks for the flu vaccine to fully protect you against the virus, the CDC recommends everyone age 6 months and older gets a flu vaccine by Halloween.

Oneida County Health Department is offering influenza vaccinations beginning September 20, 2021, at the Oneida County Aging and Disability Resource Center (ADRC) on the first floor of the Health and Aging and Disability Resource Center (ADRC) Building. Hours of operation are 8:30 AM – 4:00 PM Monday, Wednesday, Thursday, and Friday. Then 8:30 AM-5:30 PM on Tuesday. No appointment is needed. For a list of community clinics hosted by Oneida County Health Department, check out www.oneidacountypublichealth.org.

The best way to prevent flu is to get a flu vaccine each year. This season, getting a flu shot has the added benefit of reducing the overall burden on the health care system by saving medical resources for the care of COVID-19 patients and others.

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