

PRESS RELEASE

Shelby County Health Department
1700 W. South 3rd Street
Shelbyville, Illinois 62565

FOR MORE INFORMATION, CONTACT:
Jennifer Beeson, R.N., CD Coordinator
Stephen L. Melega, Public Health Administrator
Shelby County Health Department
217 774-9555 Fax 217 774-2355
Email: shelbyhealth@consolidated.net

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

Important Influenza Alert

Shelbyville, Illinois, February 23, 2012— The Shelby County Health Department and the Center for Disease Control are advising that all individuals who have not received the flu shot this year to get vaccinated now. Historically, influenza cases would have peaked at this time, however data is showing that influenza activity is increasing across the United States. The CDC influenza surveillance report, “FluView”, states the national percentage of respiratory specimens testing positive for influenza this past week was 15.5%. This is the second consecutive week this number has been above 10%; generally a marker to indicate that the flu season has begun. By this measure, the “flu” is off to an unusual late start this season.

You need this season’s vaccine to protect against influenza and reduce the risk of spreading it to others. It will take approximately 2 weeks after vaccination for the body’s immune response to fully kick in. CDC recommends that everyone six months and older get an annual flu shot. If you didn’t get that flu shot, get it now. If you cannot afford the shot the Shelby County Health Department will vaccinate you at no cost. No one can predict how long the flu season will last and whether the number of cases will continue to increase, however the current data suggest it will. Consider getting vaccinated now if you don’t want the flu to interfere with spring break trips or Easter celebrations. The Shelby County Health Department has a limited supply of vaccine left, stop into the office, Monday – Friday 8:00 AM – 12:00 PM and 1:00 PM – 4:00 PM. For more information contact us at 217-774-9555.