



Jeb Bush
Governor

John O. Agwunobi, M.D., M.B.A., M.P.H.
Secretary

PINELLAS COUNTY HEALTH DEPARTMENT

Friday, November 12, 2004

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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**MEDIA: PLEASE NOTE CLARIFICATION
ABOUT SENIOR FRIENDLY EVENT.**

**PINELLAS COUNTY HEALTH DEPARTMENT ANNOUNCES
RECEIPT OF ADDITIONAL FLU VACCINE**

The Pinellas County Health Department has received an additional shipment of 4,000 doses of adult flu vaccine for distribution. This shipment will complete the Pinellas County Health Department's original order of vaccine for the 2004-2005 flu season.

In accordance with guidelines established by the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), the health department will distribute limited supplies of flu vaccine to the following:

- Hospitals, nursing homes and assisted living facilities;
- Physicians' offices and walk-in clinics;
- High-risk individuals at previously contracted sites; and
- City and county emergency responders.

Additionally, 1,000 doses of flu vaccine will be available for high-risk individuals and will be administered through the Senior Friendly Extravaganza at Tropicana Field on November 17, from 10:00a.m. through 4:00 p.m. Participants will be given a number **at the event** and then be able to visit the event while awaiting their shots. Any individual meeting the CDC's guidelines will be eligible for a flu shot at this event. There is a \$20.00 per person fee for the influenza vaccine. Medicare Part B will be accepted to cover the cost of the vaccine given through the health department. **There may be a \$5.00 fee to park at Tropicana Field.**

The Pinellas County Health Department may be able to offer further flu shots to the at-risk public through appointments if additional supplies are identified.

High-risk individuals who should be vaccinated against influenza include:

- Persons 65 years and older;
- Children aged 6 to 23 months;
- Residents and employees of nursing homes and other long-term care facilities that house individuals of any age who have long term illnesses;
 - Individuals 6 months of age and older who have chronic heart or lung conditions (such as asthma), need regular care or must be in a hospital due to metabolic diseases (such as diabetes), chronic kidney disease, or weakened immune systems;
 - Children and teenagers 6 months to 18 years who are on long-term aspirin therapy and therefore could develop Reye syndrome after the flu; and
- Women who will be pregnant during the flu season.

(MORE)



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(11/12/2004 Flu Vaccine Update – 1st ad)

Additional individuals who should be vaccinated include:

- Doctors, nurses, emergency response workers and employees in hospitals and physicians' offices who have direct patient contact; and
- Caregivers of children younger than 6 months. This is because children younger than 24 months may be at higher risk for complications from influenza.

High-risk individuals can also be vaccinated for pneumonia – an infection often contracted after the body is weakened from the flu. To obtain a pneumonia vaccine, individuals should contact their primary healthcare provider or the Pinellas County Health Department. The pneumonia vaccine is available through the health department for a fee of \$25.00 per shot. Medicare Part B will be accepted to cover the cost of pneumonia vaccine given through the health department.

In addition to vaccination, the probability of contracting respiratory infections can be reduced by following a few healthy habits:

- Clean hands often with soap and water or an alcohol-based hand sanitizer;
- Avoid touching your mouth, nose or eyes;
- Stay at home when you are sick and do not send children to school if they are sick;
- If possible, avoid close contact with people who are ill;
- Do not share eating utensils, drinking glasses, towels or personal items; and
- Cover your mouth and nose with a tissue when you cough or sneeze.

For recorded information about vaccine distribution, call the Pinellas County Health Department at (727) 824-6900, and choose option 2. For additional information, visit www.pinellashealth.com and click on "Flu Vaccine," or visit www.cdc.gov.

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