

Saint Louis
COUNTY

HEALTH

NEWS

For Immediate Release

Media Contact: Craig LeFebvre
Office (314) 615-0116
Cell (314) 591-9502
clefebvre@stlouisco.com

Alternate Media Contact: John Shelton
Office (314) 615-8922
Pager (314) 460-6148
jshelton@stlouisco.com

County Health Department Urges All Residents to Get Vaccinated against the Seasonal Flu

SAINT LOUIS COUNTY, MO – (September 27, 2011) Flu season has arrived and the Saint Louis County Department of Health is urging all residents six months of age and older be vaccinated against the seasonal flu.

Earlier today, County Executive Charlie A. Dooley and Dr. Dolores J. Gunn, Director of the Saint Louis County Department of Health, were both vaccinated against the seasonal flu at an event highlighting the importance and ease of being vaccinated.

“It’s not just about protecting yourself. If you don’t catch the flu, then you can’t spread the flu to others,” said Dr. Gunn.

Every flu season, the vaccine contains several different strains of the flu virus. This year’s vaccine contains three flu strains, based on what flu experts expect to be the most likely strains encountered.

Depending on the severity of the outbreak, between 15 and 60 million Americans are infected by seasonal flu each flu season. Over 200,000 people are hospitalized every year due to flu-related complications and around 36,000 of them die.

Residents wanting a flu vaccination are able to call the Seasonal Flu Vaccination Hotline to find out where to go for seasonal flu vaccinations. They can also visit the Saint Louis County Department of Health’s Flu website:

1-877-588-4FLU (4358)

www.SaintLouisCountyFlu.com

Other standard precautions being urged by the County Health Department are:

- Wash your hands frequently with soap and water.
- Cough and sneeze into a tissue or into your sleeve.
- Avoid touching your eyes, nose, or mouth.
- Try to maintain a distance of three feet between you and others.
- Stay home when you are sick or think you may be getting sick.

###