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### **Flu Shot Clinic to Help Village Prepare for Future Terrorism Event**

Oak Parkers who come to the Oct. 11 flu clinic at OPRF High School are sure to notice the heightened security, police in SWAT gear and additional public health workers. Public safety officials will be taking advantage of the clinic setting to practice their plans for mass inoculations should a terrorism event require everyone in the Village to be vaccinated.

“The Oak Park Department of Public Health would play a key role should the federal government require a mass inoculation, such as against smallpox,” said Oak Park Health Director Georgeen Polyak, PhD. “The program has been organized at a national level, but local health departments would be required to actually dispense the vaccine.”

Dr. Polyak said the drill will help officials examine their written strategies under actual clinical conditions, although on a much smaller scale than an actual incident.

Police and fire personnel will be involved in the drill, according to Polyak, because they would have to protect the stockpile of vaccine, maintain order and provide any on-site emergency medical support that might be required for an event the size and scope of a mass inoculation of the entire Village. The Village also will have its Medical Reserve Corps volunteers on hand to practice their emergency support roles.

The drill should have no impact on those individuals who come for the flu shot clinic, other than taking a few moments longer. The various steps in the process from sign in to the actual inoculation will be more spread out than at a routine flu shot clinic to simulate dealing with large numbers of people.

The flu shot clinic at OPRF, which is scheduled for 3 – 7 p.m., is one of 12 clinics to be held at 11 locations throughout the Village during October and November. For more information on the clinics, call 358.5480, email [health@oak-park.us](mailto:health@oak-park.us) or visit [www.oak-park.us](http://www.oak-park.us).

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