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From: David Powers
Communications Director
708.358.5781

Contact: Georgeen Polyak, PhD
Health Director
708.358.5482

Flu Vaccine Restricted to Residents; Further Restrictions Possible

Oak Park Public Health officials today announced that the flu immunization clinics offered during October and November will be limited to residents because of the national shortage of vaccine. Depending on demand, health officials could later restrict the vaccine to those most at risk for complications.

Healthy people are being urged to defer getting their annual flu shots to help ensure sufficient vaccine is available for those individuals who need it most, including people 65 years old and older, and adults and children who have a long-term heart, lung or kidney problem.

Health officials also are recommending that healthy children ages six to 23 months be vaccinated. Parents should contact the Oak Park Department of Public Health for more information on special accommodations for young children in this age category.

Cost of the flu vaccine is \$20 for Village residents. Pneumococcal shots also are available for \$25 for Village residents. Medicare B covers the cost of both the flu and pneumococcal vaccines, but recipients must bring their Medicare card to the clinic to demonstrate eligibility. Medicare recipients who are part of an HMO should check with their insurer before visiting a clinic because these individuals may be required to get flu and pneumococcal shots from their own HMO doctor in order to be covered.

Twelve clinics have been scheduled at 11 locations throughout the Village. For more information on the clinics call 708.358.5486, email health@oak-park.us or visit www.oak-park.us.

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