



**For Immediate Release:** 12.05.05

From: David Powers  
Communications Director  
708.358.5781

Contact: Margaret Provost-Fyfe  
Department of Public Health  
708.358. 5492

### **Flu Shots Offered by Appointment**

Because of the delay in receiving flu vaccine shipments this year, the Oak Park Department of Public Health is working to make it as convenient as possible for residents who still need flu shots, including offering individual service and three special early evening clinics.

Oak Parkers who have not yet been immunized may call the Health Department at 358.5486 to make a specific appointment for a flu shot. Residents also may call to make an appointment for any one three clinics scheduled from 3:30 – 6 p.m., Wednesday, Thursday and Friday, at Health Department Clinic, 320 Lake St.

"The flu season is just now really getting underway," said Oak Park Health Director Georgeen Polyak, PhD. "The season typically does not peak until late February or early March, and the virus can be active as late as May."

Delays in vaccine deliveries from manufacturers and uneven geographic distribution have affected outreach in many communities this season, including Oak Park. The Oak Park Health Department acquired this latest supply of vaccine by working with the Illinois Department of Public Health and other health departments that had extra doses.

Even with this latest delivery, health officials say vaccine supplies remain lower than in previous years, lending some urgency to the need for those residents most at risk but who have not yet been inoculated to call the Health Department as soon as possible. The continued limited supplies also make appointments necessary.

Flu shots are available to any Oak Park resident over the age of 6 months. Children ages six to 23 months, people 65 and older, adults and children who have long-term health problems of the heart, lungs or kidneys, health care personnel who provide direct patient care and care givers of children under six months old are most at risk from complications from the flu, according to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC).

Flu shots are \$20, but free to Medicare B recipients who present their Medicare card to demonstrate eligibility. Medicare HMO recipients should check with their insurer before contacting the Village to schedule a flu shot.

For more information on flu prevention, call 358.5601, email [health@oak-park.us](mailto:health@oak-park.us) or visit [www.oak-park.us](http://www.oak-park.us)

###