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Governor

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

**PINELLAS COUNTY HEALTH DEPARTMENT**

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**Friday, December 17, 2004**

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

Contact:

Jeannine Mallory, M.P.A.  
Public Information Director  
**PINELLAS COUNTY HEALTH DEPARTMENT**  
727-824-6908

Kevin Colley,  
Regional Account Executive  
**MAXIM HEALTH SYSTEMS**  
(407) 647-9016

**MAXIM HEALTH SYSTEMS TO HOLD PUBLIC FLU SHOT CLINIC**  
*Only Those Considered High Risk will be Vaccinated*

Maxim Health Systems is teaming with the Pinellas County Health Department to offer flu shots to those considered high risk by the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC).

With the health of the community at the utmost importance, a local flu shot clinic has been scheduled for **Tuesday, December 21** at the **Kash N' Karry**, located at **2139 34<sup>th</sup> Street N. in St. Petersburg**. The flu shot clinic is set for **9:00 a.m. – 3:00 p.m.** There will be a limited number of flu shots available at this event, and **immunizations will be given on a first-come, first-served basis** to those in the CDC Risk Categories.

This year, the CDC has said that the following groups should be vaccinated:

- Individuals 65 years of age and older
- Individuals with chronic medical problems or conditions that weaken the immune system
- Women who expect to be pregnant during flu season
- Residents of nursing homes and long-term care facilities
- Healthcare workers with direct patient care responsibilities
- Out-of-home caregivers or household contacts of children less than six months of age
- Children 6 months to 18 years on long-term aspirin therapy

Maxim will vaccinate children over age 9 classified as high risk. Parents of high risk children under the age of 9 are urged to contact their physician or the Pinellas County Health Department for vaccinations for those children.

In the midst of a nationwide shortage of the flu vaccine, all participants in will be required to sign a questionnaire that attests to the fact that they are indeed at high risk. The CDC is asking that all others forego the flu shot this year.

Individuals with Medicare Part B coverage will receive their shot at this Maxim event at no cost. Maxim will also provide free flu shots to individuals covered by the following: Blue Cross Blue Shield of Florida, Avmed, Wellcare, Care Plus, Health First Health Plans, Quality Health Plan, United Healthcare, Aetna and Preferred Care Partners. Individuals not covered by the plans above will purchase their vaccinations through Maxim Health Systems for a cost of \$20.00.

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