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PINELLAS COUNTY HEALTH DEPARTMENT

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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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**National Influenza Vaccination Week is November 26 - December 2, 2007**

The week after Thanksgiving, November 27 to December 2, is **National Influenza Vaccination Week**. This event highlights the importance of continuing with influenza vaccination (flu shots) during November, December and beyond.

Each year, more than 20,000 children under age five are hospitalized because of influenza. Tuesday November 27 has been designated as **Children's Flu Vaccination Day**, with a focus on vaccinating high-risk children. This day will help raise awareness about the importance of vaccinating children – especially high-risk children (e.g., those with asthma, compromised immune systems and chronic illness) – and their close contacts, to help protect them from the flu.

The health department recommends flu shots for everyone – especially if you are in the following groups:

- Individuals age 50 and older
- Residents of and staff of long-term care facilities
- People with chronic medical conditions and their household contacts
- Children aged six months to five years of age, their household contacts and out-of-home caregivers
- Pregnant women or women who will be pregnant during flu season
- Healthcare personnel
- Household contacts and out-of-home caregivers of children less than six months of age

You can get a flu shot at your own doctor's office, area walk-in clinics, at flu shot events hosted by local supermarkets and other public places or at one of the Pinellas County Health Department's health centers:

1. St. Petersburg – 205 Dr. ML King Street North 727-824-6900
2. Clearwater – 310 N. Myrtle Avenue 727-469-5800
3. Pinellas Park – 6350 76th Avenue North 727-547-7780
4. Largo – 12420 130th Avenue North 727-588-4040
5. Tarpon Springs – 301 South Disston Avenue 727-942-5457

The cost of a flu shot at the Pinellas County Health Department is \$25. Pneumonia vaccines will also be available for \$40. Call the health center nearest you to check hours and supply on the day you plan to go in for a flu shot. You can also call our **flu shot hotline** at (727) 824-6900, then press **2**, for hours, availability and other information.

To learn more, visit [www.pinellashealth.com](http://www.pinellashealth.com) or [www.cdc.gov/flu](http://www.cdc.gov/flu). To send someone you love a flu prevention e-card, go to <http://www.cdc.gov/flu/professionals/flugallery/index.htm#fluecards>.

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Media Note: For more information about National Influenza Vaccination Week, including current influenza surveillance information and flu activity, visit <http://www.cdc.gov/flu/nivw/index.htm>