



MEDIA RELEASE

Date: November 24, 2015

To: All Media

From: LaSalle County Health Department
717 Etna Road
Ottawa, IL 61350

Contact: Leslie Dougherty (ext. 225)

Phone: (815) 433-3366
For Immediate Release

“LaSalle County Health Department’s Flu Clinic December 3rd”

OTTAWA, IL – The LaSalle County Health Departments next flu clinic will be held Thursday, December 3rd at the Health Department from 10 am - 5 pm. We urge everyone 6 months and older to get vaccinated against seasonal influenza (flu). We have an adequate supply of flu vaccine including high dose for persons 65 and older. Due to production delays Flu Mist may not be available. Parents are encouraged to vaccinate their children with the shot when the flu mist is not available. All LaSalle County Health Department influenza vaccines are preservative free. The fee for the flu shot will be \$30. Billing will be provided for Medicare part B, Medicaid eligible clients, and most health insurance companies. Also at this clinic, if you are 19 years of age or older, have no health insurance or your insurance doesn’t pay for vaccines we have flu and pneumonia vaccine available at reduced cost through the Vaccine for Adults (VFA) program.

No Doctors order is required. Children must be accompanied by a parent or guardian.

The flu vaccine is effective in preventing influenza among healthy adults, but for those who still get the flu, the symptoms are milder than in those who have not been immunized. Influenza HD will be given to persons 65 and older. Human immune defenses become weaker with age. Aging decreases the body’s ability to have a good immune response. A higher dose of protection in the vaccine is added to give older persons a better immune response. This additional protection is intended to create a stronger immune response which will make the vaccine more effective in the elderly.

To lessen your chances of developing the flu, adults and children need to practice good hygiene measures. Teach the importance of covering your mouth when coughing or sneezing, and educate children about hand to mucous membrane transmission. One of the best ways to protect yourself and your children is through frequent and thorough hand washing. People who are exhibiting “flu-like” symptoms should stay home from work, out of childcare and school to minimize transmission.

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MEDIA RELEASE



Date: November 20, 2015
To: All Media
From: LaSalle County Health Department
717 Etna Road
Ottawa, IL 61350
Contact: Jenny Barrie (ext. 226)
Leslie Dougherty (ext. 225)
Phone: (815) 433-3366
For Immediate Release

“WORLD AIDS DAY”

OTTAWA, IL -- The 28th annual observance of World AIDS Day is December 1, 2015. This year's theme is “Think Positive, Rethink HIV.” In honor of this day the LaSalle County Health Department will be doing walk-in HIV tests on Monday, December 7th from 9:00-4:00 pm. This means people who want to be tested do not need to make appointment on that day. They can walk-in be tested and have their results. Every 9 ½ minutes, someone in the U.S. is infected with HIV. The CDC estimates that more than one million people are living with HIV in the United States. One in 5 of those people are unaware of their infection. Young adults aged 20-24 have the highest annual diagnosis rate and account for the largest percentage of all new cases.

Increased knowledge of the disease and improved diagnostic and treatment methods have led to significant advances in the clinical management of HIV and a delay in the progression from HIV to AIDS, and thus, individuals receiving treatment in the U.S. are living longer. In the role of prevention, it is important for individuals to know their HIV status since many individuals remain free of clinical signs for months to years. HIV is spread by the exchange of blood, semen, or vaginal secretions between individuals. The most common routes of transmission are 1) having unprotected sex with an infected person, 2) sharing drug injection equipment with an infected person, and 3) from mother to infant at the time of birth or through breastfeeding.

LaSalle County Health Department offers free, confidential HIV testing and counseling services to individuals at risk who are over the age of 12. Individuals may call 815-433-3366 to schedule an appointment if they are unable to come on December 7th. For more information you can also visit our website at www.lasallecounty.org.

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