



**DALLAS COUNTY
DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES
OFFICE OF PUBLIC INFORMATION**

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DCHHS Now Offering Flu Shots to the Entire Family

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In addition to children, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) recommends annual influenza vaccinations for:

- All persons who want to reduce the risk of becoming ill with influenza or of transmitting influenza to others.
- Adults aged 50 and older.
- All women who will be pregnant during influenza season.
- Residents of nursing homes and long-term care facilities.
- Healthcare workers with direct patient care. New law requires acute care hospitals to offer vaccine to all employees free of charge.
- Individuals with underlying chronic medical conditions.

The CDC has reported that more than 200,000 people are hospitalized and about 36,000 die in the United States due to influenza and its complications. Influenza is not a reportable condition so the exact numbers of persons infected each year is unknown. However, DCHHS utilizes a surveillance network of reporting sites around the County which include viral laboratories, outpatient medical sites, participating hospitals, and area public school districts to track influenza levels and identify circulating strains of the virus. This information is used to track illness trends and identify potential clusters or outbreaks of cases.

The 2008--09 trivalent vaccine virus strains are A/Brisbane/59/2007 (H1N1)-like, A/Brisbane/10/2007 (H3N2)-like, and B/Florida/4/2006-like antigens. Influenza is an acute respiratory illness that is spread from infected persons to the throat or nose of others. Signs and symptoms of the flu can include fever, cough, chills, sore throat, headache and muscle aches. It usually lasts a few days, but can last much longer and cause severe illness.

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