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Philip Huang, MD, MPH, Director

## FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

## DCHHS reports 11<sup>th</sup> flu-related death of 2019-2020 season

**DALLAS** (Jan. 22, 2020) – Dallas County Health and Human Services (DCHHS) is reporting the 11<sup>th</sup> flu-related death in Dallas County for the 2019-2020 season. The patient was 34 years of age without any underlying medical conditions and a resident of Dallas County. For medical confidentiality and personal privacy reasons, DCHHS does not provide additional identifying information.

This death is the 10<sup>th</sup> adult flu-related death in addition to the one confirmed pediatric flu-related death and two possible influenzaassociated pediatric deaths that are pending Medical Examiner's confirmation of cause of death.

"These flu deaths continue to remind us of the seriousness of flu, and how important it is for everyone six months and older to get their flu vaccine and practice prevention measures", said Dr. Philip Huang, DCHHS Director and Health Authority.

"Getting the flu vaccine is especially important for persons with chronic health conditions, such as asthma, diabetes, or heart disease to decrease their risk of severe flu illness. Practicing everyday preventive actions can also help slow the spread of influenza and other respiratory illnesses. These steps include frequent hand washing, covering your coughs/sneezes with a tissue or into your elbow and staying home if you have flu-like symptoms. Finally, if you do get sick with the flu, take antiviral medications if your doctor prescribes them."

The Center for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) recommends a yearly flu vaccine for all persons aged six months and older, with rare exception. Individuals should discuss flu vaccine concerns with their health care provider.

DCHHS recently announced free flu vaccines for adults and children at all DCHHS immunizations clinic locations <u>https://www.dallascounty.org/departments/dchhs/immunization-hours.php</u>

DCHHS is also extending free flu vaccines to adults and children at the following community events:

<u>Thursday, January 23, 2020</u> 10:00 AM – 1:00 PM Eastfield Community College 3737 Motley Dr. Mesquite, TX 75150

Saturday, January 25, 2020 9:00 AM – 11:00 AM Pleasant Grove Christian Church 1324 Pleasant Dr. Dallas, TX 75217

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2377 North Stemmons Freeway, Dallas, Texas 75207-2710 | 214.819.2100 www.dallascounty.org/hhs



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<u>Thursday, January 30, 2020</u> 1:00 PM – 3:00 PM South Branch Garland Library 4845 Broadway Ave. Garland, TX 75043

Friday, January 31, 2020 1:00 PM – 3:00 PM Austin Street Shelter 2929 Hickory St. Dallas, TX 75226

For more information about immunizations, call 214-819-2162. Additional information about influenza is available at <a href="https://www.dallascounty.org/departments/dchhs/influenza.php">https://www.dallascounty.org/departments/dchhs/influenza.php</a>

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