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## FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

### DCHHS reports 17<sup>th</sup> flu-related death of 2019-2020 season

**DALLAS** (Feb. 14, 2020) – Dallas County Health and Human Services (DCHHS) is reporting the 17<sup>th</sup> flu-related death in Dallas County for the 2019-2020 season. The patient was 54 years of age with underlying medical conditions and was a resident of Dallas. For medical confidentiality and personal privacy reasons, DCHHS does not provide additional identifying information.

To date, 17 influenza-associated deaths have been reported in Dallas County during the 2019-2020 season (16 adult flu deaths and 1 pediatric death). In addition, there are two possible influenza-associated pediatric deaths that are pending Medical Examiner's determination of cause of death.

"This latest death is another reminder that flu is serious and remains at high levels in our community. It is still not too late to get the flu vaccine if you have not already done so, 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.

DCHHS recently announced free flu vaccines for adults and children at all DCHHS immunizations clinic locations

<https://www.dallascounty.org/departments/dchhs/immunization-hours.php>

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

**Wednesday, February 19, 2020**

Union Gospel Mission  
3211 Irving Blvd.  
Dallas, TX 75247  
4:00 pm – 6:00 pm

**Saturday, February 22, 2020**

Pleasant Grove Christian Church  
1324 Pleasant Dr.  
Dallas, TX 75217  
10:00 am – 12:00 pm

**Monday, February 24, 2020**

Mexican Consulate  
1210 River Bend Dr.  
Dallas, TX 75247  
10:00 am – 12:00 pm

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

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