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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

DCHHS reports first confirmed pediatric flu-related death of 2019-2020 season

DALLAS (Jan. 17, 2020) – Dallas County Health and Human Services (DCHHS) is reporting the first confirmed pediatric flu-related death in Dallas County for the 2019-2020 season. The patient was 16 years of age with no pre-existing medical conditions and was a resident of Dallas County. This is the tenth flu-related death for the 2019-2020 season. For medical confidentiality and personal privacy reasons, DCHHS does not provide additional identifying information.

"This flu death is another tragic reminder of the seriousness of the flu. I can't stress enough the importance of getting an annual flu vaccine and practicing 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:

Thursday, January 23, 2020

10:00 AM – 12:00 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

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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