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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

## DCHHS reports seventh, eighth, and ninth flu-related deaths of 2019-2020 season

**DALLAS** (Jan. 15, 2020) – Dallas County Health and Human Services (DCHHS) is reporting the seventh, eighth, and ninth flu-related deaths in Dallas County for the 2019-2020 season. The patients were 73, 64, and 65 years of age with pre-existing medical conditions. All residents of Dallas County. For medical confidentiality and personal privacy reasons, DCHHS does not provide additional identifying information.

"These flu deaths are a reminder of how serious flu is, and how important it is for everyone six months and older to get their flu vaccination 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 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 <a href="https://www.dallascounty.org/departments/dchhs/influenza.php">https://www.dallascounty.org/departments/dchhs/influenza.php</a>