

ONEIDA COUNTY HEALTH DEPARTMENT

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November 22, 2011
For Immediate Release

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Vaccine Still Plentiful – County Lowers Cost of Flu Shot

With ample quantities of vaccine still available, the Oneida County Health Department is lowering the cost of a flu shot for all uninsured patients while supplies last, Patrice Bogan, Director of Clinic Services announced today.

“As we get into the holiday season, people will be traveling, entertaining visitors and having more contact with the public while shopping and attending holiday parties, thus increasing their chances of contracting the flu. We urge people who haven’t done so, to get a flu shot now; and as an added incentive, we’re lowering the cost of the vaccine to just a \$10.00 administration fee,” Bogan said.

The Health Department has been charging those patients not covered by Medicaid, Medicare Part B or accepted private insurance \$25.00 at the public flu clinics conducted throughout the County during the months of October and November. Flu shots will continue to be available at the health department’s weekly ‘walk-in’ immunization clinics in both Utica and Rome. **The clinics are held in Utica at 406 Elizabeth Street on Mondays and Thursdays from 1:00 pm to 3:30 pm and in Rome at 300 West Dominick Street on Tuesdays from 1:00 pm to 3:00 pm.** No appointments are necessary.

Bogan said this year’s flu vaccine combines protection from both the H1N1 influenza virus and the seasonal flu. It takes two weeks for immunization to develop after being vaccinated.

Health officials say the flu vaccine offers the best protection from the flu, but reminds everyone there are steps you can take to limit the spread of influenza including:

- Frequent and proper hand washing using warm, soapy water paying attention to the backs of the hands, between the fingers and under the finger nails.
- Covering all coughs and sneezes using the crook of your arm – not your hands.
- Staying home from work or school if you experience ‘flu like illness’ including fever and cough; and remaining home for at least 24 hours after symptoms subside without the use of fever reducing medications.

For more information on influenza visit the health department’s web site at ocgov.net/oneida/health or call **798-5747**.

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