

ONEIDA COUNTY HEALTH DEPARTMENT

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NEWS RELEASE

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For Immediate Release

Contact: Sandra Pejicic, Director of Clinic Services
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Health Department Lowers the Cost of Flu Shot

OCHD Official: Flu Season Peaks in February-Still Time to Get Vaccine

The Director of Clinic Services for the Oneida County Health Department announced today that the flu vaccine will be administered at their clinics at a cost of only 10-dollars for the remainder of the flu season or until present supplies are exhausted. The health department had charged those without acceptable insurance or Medicare Part B 25-dollars for the vaccine since the beginning of the flu season in October.

"We have quantities of both adult and children's injectable vaccine available at our clinic and want to remind Oneida County residents that it's not too late to get a flu shot if they haven't done so already," Sandra Pejicic, Director of Clinic Services said. She added, "There's still time to get the protection the vaccine has to offer since influenza generally peaks in late February and early March."

Pejicic emphasized that it takes two weeks to develop immunity after receiving the flu vaccine so urged those who have not gotten a flu shot this year to consider doing so immediately. The Oneida County Health Department provides flu shots at all of their regularly scheduled immunization clinics held in **Utica**, at 406 Elizabeth Street on **Mondays and Thursdays from 1:00 pm to 3:30 pm** and in **Rome** at 300 W. Dominick Street on **Tuesdays from 1:00 to 3:00 pm**.

According to health department officials, there have been 491 confirmed cases of flu reported in Oneida County during the 2013-2014 flu season. Most people diagnosed with the flu have been affected by the H1N1 virus first identified in 2009.

"While Oneida County has experienced a milder flu season than last year, which saw more than 1600 cases reported, we have seen a steady increase in cases since the holidays," Pejicic said.

According to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), that while the vaccine offers the best protection against the flu, people are reminded that they can stop the spread of flu by covering their coughs and sneezes, using the bend of their arm; avoiding people with flu-like symptoms and staying home from work or school if they experience flu symptoms; and by washing their hands frequently using soap and water or by using an alcohol-based hand sanitizer when soap and water is not available.

For more information on influenza visit the health department's web site at ocgov.net/oneida/health or call the Oneida County Health Department at **(315) 798-5748**.