## **Press Release**



Hamilton County Health Department Web: health.hamiltontn.org

## \*\*FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE\*\* September 10, 2025

## Health Department to Begin Offering Flu Vaccines and Provide Guidance Ahead of the 2025 – 2026 Flu Season.

HAMILTON COUNTY, TN – Beginning September 10<sup>th</sup>, the Hamilton County Health Department will begin offering flu vaccinations at all Health Department locations; **no appointment is necessary.** The flu vaccine is recommended for anyone six months and older and is also available through most primary care providers and local pharmacies.

<u>Per the CDC</u>, the flu is a contagious respiratory illness caused by influenza viruses that infect the nose, throat, and sometimes the lungs. Anyone can get the flu (including healthy people), but some people are at higher risk of developing serious flu-related complications. People at an increased risk include adults 65 years and older, children younger than 2 years old, people with asthma, pregnant women, and those with preexisting medical conditions or a compromised immune system.

There are actions you can take to protect yourself and others from flu and help stop the spread of germs, which include:

- Wash your hands often
- Cover your mouth and nose when coughing or sneezing
- Avoid touching your eyes, nose, or mouth
- Avoid close contact with people who are sick
- Stay home when you are sick
- Get the flu vaccine each year

These practical steps can help prevent the flu or reduce the chances of developing severe illness from the virus.

"With the flu season upon us, we highly encourage everyone to consider getting the flu vaccine," says Dr. Stephen Miller, Hamilton County Health Department Health Officer. "By being proactive and implementing a few simple steps such as good hygiene, staying home when sick, and getting the flu shot, we can protect ourselves, our loved ones, and our community."

All Health Department locations will offer the flu vaccine, a high-dose vaccine for those 65 and older, and an egg-free vaccine for those with an egg allergy. The Health Department encourages anyone with an egg allergy to call the clinic ahead of time to ensure the vaccine is available and ready for their visit. The COVID-19 vaccination is also available at all Health Department locations, according to the CDC, may administer the flu vaccine simultaneously.

To receive a flu vaccine from the Health Department, please visit <u>Health.HamiltonTN.org</u> for locations and hours or call 423-209-8000 for more information. If a minor is being vaccinated, a parent or legal guardian must be present at the appointment and bring a current, valid photo ID. If you are the legal guardian, please bring proof of guardianship.

## Additional resources

- Questions? Call the Health Department at 423-209-8000.
- For Health Department information, visit: <u>Health.HamiltonTN.gov</u>
- To read this information in Spanish, visit the Health Department's Spanish Facebook page at <a href="https://www.facebook.com/SaludHamiltonTN">https://www.facebook.com/SaludHamiltonTN</a>