



District 2 Public Health

Pamela Logan, M.D., M.P.H., M.A., Health Director

1280 Athens Street • Gainesville, Georgia 30507

PH: 770-535-5743 • FAX: 770-535-5958 • www.phdistrict2.org

Banks, Dawson, Forsyth, Franklin, Habersham, Hall, Hart, Lumpkin, Rabun, Stephens, Towns, Union and White Counties

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

CONTACT: Dave Palmer, Public Information Officer

DATE: November 26, 2018

PH: 770-531-5679 • FAX: 770-535-5958

dbpalmer@dhr.state.ga.us

NATIONAL INFLUENZA VACCINATION WEEK DECEMBER 2 through 8

IT'S NOT TOO LATE! Get your flu vaccine now.

GAINESVILLE, GA – National Influenza Vaccination Week (NIVW) was established by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) in 2005 to highlight the importance of continuing flu vaccination through the holiday season and beyond. District 2 Public Health Departments have both types of flu vaccines: the shot and the nasal spray, and urge residents to get immunized now against seasonal influenza. As long as flu viruses are circulating, it's not too late to get vaccinated.

CDC recommends that all persons, six months of age and older, who can take the flu shot, do so. "High-dose" influenza vaccine is recommended for individuals age 65 years and older. As we age, our immune systems become weaker. A higher dose of antigen in the (high-dose) vaccine helps boost the immune response in older people and improves protection against influenza. It takes about two weeks after vaccination for the body to build full immunity against influenza, so now is a good time to get vaccinated. Influenza activity typically lasts from October to May in the United States, but can occur at any time.

Local health departments accept cash, credit and debit cards, as well as Medicare, Medicaid, Peach Care, Amerigroup, WellCare, Blue Cross Blue Shield, Aetna, Cigna, Coventry, and United Health Care (state health benefit plan). Please bring your insurance card with you. The cost for the flu shot is \$25 for self-pay.

During last year's flu season, CDC estimates 49 million people were infected by flu viruses which caused over 950,000 hospitalizations and an estimated 79,000 deaths. Health experts agree that the flu vaccine is the first and most important step in protecting against flu viruses. The next key step is preventing the spread of germs. To help stop the spread of germs wash your hands often with soap and water or with an alcohol-based hand sanitizer, cover coughs and sneezes, and stay home if you are sick. Cleaning and disinfecting common surfaces in your home and work area



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can also limit the spread of germs. If you experience flu symptoms—fever, cough, sore throat, runny/stuffy nose, body aches, headache, chills and fatigue—you can seek advice from your healthcare provider. If you have the flu, your healthcare provider may prescribe antiviral medicine which can make the illness milder and shorten the time you are sick.

Persons in certain groups may have a higher risk for complications from influenza. These include: children younger than 5 years of age, adults 65 years of age and older, pregnant women, residents of nursing homes and other long-term care facilities. Additionally, persons with chronic illnesses, weakened immune systems, and children and adolescents (aged 6 months –18 years) who are receiving long-term aspirin therapy are at higher risk for complications.

For convenience, here is a list of health departments and their immunization clinic schedules:

<p>Banks Health Dept. 667 Thompson Street Homer, GA 30547</p>	<p><u>Appointment:</u> Please call 706-677-2296.</p> <p><u>Walk-in clinic:</u> Every Friday from 8:00am to 11:00am and 1:00pm to 4:00pm (curbside service is available)</p> <p><u>Late night clinic:</u> first Thursday of each month open until 7:00pm (note: closes at 3:00pm the following Friday)</p> <p><u>Businesses:</u> To schedule an immunization clinic at your facility, call 706-677-2296 or email Melissa Canup at Melissa.Canup@dph.ga.gov</p>
<p>Dawson Health Dept. 54 Hwy 53 East Dawsonville, GA 30534</p>	<p><u>Appointment:</u> Please call 706-265-2611</p> <p><u>Businesses:</u> To schedule an immunization clinic at your facility, call 706-265-2611 or email Janelle Wilson at Janelle.Wilson@dph.ga.gov</p>
<p>Forsyth Health Dept. 428 Canton Hwy Cumming, GA 30040</p>	<p><u>Appointment:</u> Please call 770-781-6900.</p> <p><u>Walk-in clinic:</u> Mon. – Fri. from 8:00am to 11:00am and 1:00pm to 4:00pm</p> <p><u>Businesses:</u> To schedule an immunization clinic at your facility, call 770-781-6900 or email Melissa Mercado at Melissa.Mercado@dph.ga.gov</p>



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<p>Franklin Health Dept. 6955 GA 145 South Carnesville, GA 30521</p>	<p><u>Appointment:</u> Please call 706-384-5575.</p> <p><u>Walk-in clinic:</u> Mon. – Fri. from 8:00am to 11:00am and 1:00pm to 4:00pm (curbside service available)</p> <p><u>Late night clinic:</u> second Thursday of each month open until 7:00pm (note: closes at 3:00pm the following Friday)</p> <p><u>Businesses:</u> To schedule an immunization clinic at your facility, call 706-384-5575 or email Misty Rice at Misty.Rice@dph.ga.gov</p>
<p>Habersham Health Dept. 185 Scoggins Drive Democrest, GA 30535</p>	<p><u>Appointment:</u> Please call 706-778-7156.</p> <p><u>Walk-in clinic:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Mon., Wed. & Thu. from 8:00am to 11:00am and 1:00pm to 4:00pm• Tue. from 8:00am to 11:00am and 1:00pm to 6:00pm• Fri. from 8:00am to 11:00am <p>(curbside service available)</p> <p><u>Businesses:</u> To schedule an immunization clinic at your facility, call 706-778-7156 or email Lindsey Sentz at Lindsey.Sentz@dph.ga.gov</p>
<p>Hall Health Dept. 1290 Athens Street Gainesville, GA 30507</p>	<p><u>Appointment:</u> Please call 770-531-5600.</p> <p><u>Walk-in clinic:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Mon., Wed., & Thu. from 8:00am to 11:00am and 1:00pm to 4:00pm• Tue. from 8:00am to 11:00am and 1:00pm to 6:00pm• Fri. from 8:00am to 11:00am and 1:00pm to 2:00pm <p>(curbside service available)</p> <p><u>Businesses:</u> To schedule an immunization clinic at your facility, call 770-535-5886 or email Sophie Xie at Sophie.Xie@dph.ga.gov</p>
<p>Hart Health Dept. 64 Reynold Street Hartwell, GA 30643</p>	<p><u>Appointment:</u> Please call 706-376-5117.</p> <p><u>Walk-in clinic:</u> Tue. & Thu. From 8:00am to 11:00am and 1:00pm to 4:00pm</p>



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	<p><u>Late night clinic:</u> first Tuesday of each month open until 7:00pm (note: closes at 3:00pm the following Friday)</p> <p><u>Businesses:</u> To schedule an immunization clinic at your facility, call 706-376-5117 or email Carolyn Hicks at Carolyn.Hicks@dph.ga.gov</p>
<p>Lumpkin Health Dept. 60 Mechanicsville Road Dahlonega, GA 30533</p>	<p><u>Appointment:</u> Please call 706-867-2727.</p> <p><u>Businesses:</u> To schedule an immunization clinic at your facility, call 706-867-2727 or email Linda Truelove at Linda.Truelove@dph.ga.gov</p>
<p>Rabun Health Dept. 184 South Main Street, Ste 200 Clayton, GA 30525</p>	<p><u>Appointment:</u> Please call 706-212-0289.</p> <p><u>Walk-in clinic:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Mon., Wed., & Thu. from 8:00am to 11:30am and 1:00pm to 4:30pm• Tue. from 8:00am to 11:30am and 1:00pm to 6:30pm• Fri. from 8:00am to 11:30am and 1:00pm to 2:00pm <p><u>Businesses:</u> To schedule an immunization clinic at your facility, call 706-212-0289 or email Sue Darnell at Sue.Darnell@dph.ga.gov</p>
<p>Stephens Health Dept. 64 Boulevard, Suite 102 Toccoa, GA 30577</p>	<p><u>Appointment:</u> Please call 706-282-4507</p> <p><u>Walk-in clinic:</u> Mon. – Fri. from 8:00am to 11:00am and 1:00pm to 4:00pm</p> <p><u>Businesses:</u> To schedule an immunization clinic at your facility, call 706-677-2296 or email Debbie Thomas at Debbie.Thomas@dph.ga.gov</p> <p><i>Note: Immunizations are NOT available on the last working day of the month from 1:00 – 3:00pm.</i></p>
<p>Towns Health Dept. 1104 Jack Dayton Circle Young Harris, GA 30582</p>	<p><u>Appointment:</u> Please call 706-896-2265.</p> <p><u>Businesses:</u> To schedule an immunization clinic at your facility, call 706-896-2265 or email Laura Ide at Laura.Ide@dph.ga.gov</p>



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<p>Union Health Dept. 67 Chase Drive Blairsville, GA 30512</p>	<p><u>Appointment:</u> Please call 706-745-6292.</p> <p><u>Walk-in clinic:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Mon. & Wed. from 8:00am to 11:00am and 1:00pm to 4:00pm• Fri. from 8:00am to 11:00am <p><u>Businesses:</u> To schedule an immunization clinic at your facility, call 706-745-6292 or email Glenda McGill at Glenda.McGill@dph.ga.gov</p> <p><i>Note: Immunizations are NOT available on the last working day of the month.</i></p>
<p>White Health Dept. 1331 Helen Hwy Cleveland, GA 30528</p>	<p><u>Appointment:</u> Please call 706-865-2191.</p> <p><u>Walk-in clinic:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Mon. – Thu. from 8:00am to 11:30am and 1:00pm to 4:30pm• Fri. from 8:00am to 11:00am and 1:00pm to 2:30pm <p><u>Businesses:</u> To schedule an immunization clinic at your facility, call 706-865-2191 or email Stacy Pollard at Stacy.Pollard@dph.ga.gov</p>