

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

## FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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## **DISTRICT 2 HEALTH DEPARTMENTS ANNOUNCE DATES OF DRIVE-THRU FLU SHOTS**

GAINESVILLE – Drive-thru flu shots are coming soon! District 2 Public Health is excited to announce all county health departments will offer drive-thru flu shots this year. This will allow community members to stay in their car while receiving their flu vaccine. Health departments are making it easy to get protected against the flu virus.

Emergency Preparedness Director, Mark Palen encourages community members to participate in county drive-thru flu clinics, "Not only does this help our citizens get flu shots easily, it also serves as an important emergency preparedness medical countermeasures exercise for our public health nurses and health department staff."

According to the CDC, everyone 6 months and older should get a flu shot, it is especially important for those 55 years old and older, and persons with certain medical conditions who may experience more severe illness from the flu virus.

The quadrivalent vaccine (four-in-one) will serve as the regular flu vaccine, and will protect against four different strains of flu, both A and B strains of the influenza viruses. The high-dose vaccine, which is also a quadrivalent vaccine, will be available for persons 65 and older.

The flu vaccine is no-cost to anyone who has Medicare, Medicaid and most commercial insurances.

If an individual chooses to pay out of pocket, the cost is \$30 for the regular flu vaccine and \$66 for the high-dose. Individuals who would like to receive their flu shot at drive-thru clinics must be 18 years old and older. We encourage residents to wear masks.

For more information about your county flu shot drive-thru or to learn more about the different flu vaccine options visit the flu page on the <u>District 2 Public Health website</u>. Once there, you will find the date and location of all county health department drive-thru events.

To learn more about the influenza virus and how to protect yourself from the flu visit www.cdc.gov/flu.