

News Release

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SUSAN B. ALLEN MEMORIAL HOSPITAL AND ITS FOUNDATION CREATING HEALTHIER COMMUNITIES

Free Flu Shots Being Offered to the General Public

For Immediate Release

October 7, 2008

EL DORADO, KS - Susan B. Allen Memorial Hospital (SBA) will be making influenza vaccinations available, free of charge to the general public, hoping to help its friends and neighbors stay healthy through this year's flu season.

“The Centers for Disease Control (CDC) continually evaluates persons, or groups of persons, who they feel should be vaccinated each year,” said Janet Frey, RN, ARNP, CIC, Director of Infection Control at SBA. “This year, the CDC has increased the number of persons they recommend receive a flu vaccination, and we hope our clinic makes vaccinations more accessible to people in our communities. We hope to see many children and their families at this year's screening to help keep them healthy and out of the Hospital.”

***** See Flyer at Bottom of Article*****

Two clinics will be held this year. The first will be held on Saturday, November 1 from 8:00 – 10:00 a.m. in Augusta at the Augusta United Methodist Church, 2420 Ohio St. The second clinic will be held in El Dorado at the SBA Cancer Center, 700 W. Central on Saturday, November 8 from 8:00 – 10:00 a.m. Since there is a limited supply (2000 doses), vaccine will be made available on a first-come, first-served basis. If people are still in line at 10:00 a.m., the clinics will continue as long as there is vaccine. Persons coming to the clinics are asked to help move the process along quickly by wearing appropriate clothing, knowing that shots will be given in the upper arm.

This year, vaccinations will be made available to persons three years old or older. SBA hopes large families realize the benefits provided through the vaccine. Having one child home with the flu can put a great financial and/or emotional strain on parents who then have to stay home from work, or make arrangements for childcare. And, often times, the flu spreads throughout a family causing multiple days off from work.

There are other groups who benefit by receiving the vaccine. Persons taking care of young children or the elderly benefit by helping stop the spread of the flu virus. Also benefiting from the vaccinations would be people working in high-density workplaces, such as large retail or grocery stores, or people who are expecting visitors, or are expecting to travel for the holiday seasons.

“This is the third year we’ve provided free flu shots to the communities we serve, and we’re proud of the benefit we offer our community members,” said Gayle Arnett, President and CEO of SBA. “For the past 10 or so years, our communities have seen us grow through new facilities and services, but what I’d like everyone to see is the great way our staff cares for, and cares about our communities. Our staff understands the benefits of this project, and they hope people in the community take advantage of the opportunity to keep themselves and others healthy throughout this flu season.”

The free flu shot clinics are a joint project between Susan B. Allen Memorial Hospital and the Susan B. Allen Memorial Hospital Foundation. If you would like information about how you might help the Hospital provide similar projects, please contact Mary Luebbert, Director of Development, at 316-321-8741.

For more information about the influenza clinics, please contact Janet Frey, Infection Control practitioner at 316-321-3300, or Gene Kimble, Director of Marketing at 316-322-4543.

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Free Flu Shots

Preventing the flu saves you more than just money. It saves you the time involved in scheduling doctor's appointments and taking off work to get there. And it reduces the chances of spreading the virus to other members of the family and coworkers.

Good candidates for flu vaccinations:

- Families with children
- People with lowered immunity
- People who deal regularly with the elderly or the young
- People in high-density workplaces
- People expecting several holiday visitors
- People living in dorms or dorm-like settings

AUGUSTA – SAT, NOV. 1

Augusta United Methodist Church • 2420 Ohio • 8 - 10am

(quantity is limited)

EL DORADO – SAT, NOV. 8

SBA Cancer Center • 700 W. Central • 8 - 10am

(quantity is limited)

Vaccinations given to anyone 3 years and above



**Susan B. Allen
Memorial Hospital**

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A project of Susan B. Allen Memorial Hospital and
the Susan B. Allen Memorial Hospital Foundation



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