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NEWS RELEASE

Department Aims to Reduce Flu in Children during National Influenza Vaccination Week

EL PASO, Texas – The City of El Paso Department of Public Health is celebrating National Influenza Vaccination Week (NIVW) while paying special attention to some of the most vulnerable in our community. In addition to seniors, pregnant women, and adults with underlying medical conditions, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) considers children younger than 5 years of age part of the high risk group when it comes to the flu.

“We want to encourage our community members to get vaccinated because every year thousands of children and adults must be hospitalized due to complications related to influenza,” said Alejandra Rodarte, Public Health Supervisor.

In fact, the CDC recommends that everyone six months and older be vaccinated annually against the flu. During the 2017-2018 flu season, they estimate flu caused:

- 49 million flu illnesses – more than the combined populations of Texas and Florida
- 960,000 flu hospitalizations – more than the number of staffed hospital beds in the United States
- 79,000 deaths – more than the average number of people who attend the Super Bowl each year

The flu vaccine is available at the following locations:

- Ysleta – 110 Candelaria Rd.
- Henderson – 721 S. Mesa St.
- Central – 5115 El Paso Dr. Suite B room 1

Appointments can be made by calling: 915-212-6555.

National Influenza Vaccination Week is a national awareness week focused on highlighting the importance of influenza vaccination. This year, the NIVW is observed December 2-8. The CDC established NIVW in 2005 to highlight the importance of continuing flu vaccination through the holiday season and beyond.

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