



Columbia/Boone County Department of Public Health and Human Services
1005 West Worley Columbia MO 65203

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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**PUBLIC HEALTH & HUMAN SERVICES OFFERING FREE FLU VACCINE FOR
CHILDREN STARTING MONDAY**

(COLUMBIA, MO) – The Columbia/Boone County Department of Public Health and Human Services will offer flu vaccine starting Monday, September 30, 2013 to children age six months through 18 years. Flu vaccine is available Monday – Friday from 8 am – 4:30 p.m. at our clinic, located at 1005 West Worley. No appointment is needed; walk-ins are welcome.

This year, thanks to generous support from University of Missouri Women and Children’s Hospital and the David B. Lichtenstein Foundation, we can provide free seasonal flu vaccine (injectable and FluMist®) to all children age six months through 18 years.

Funding and support from the aforementioned community organizations will also allow public health nurses to conduct flu clinics in participating Boone County elementary and middle schools this fall. Parents who have questions about their school’s participation should contact their school nurse.

According to the Missouri Department of Health and Senior Services (DHSS) in 2009, more than 1,300 Missourians died from the flu and/or pneumonia. “Getting a flu vaccine every year is your best protection from the flu”, said Stephanie Browning, Public Health and Human Services Director. “We encourage anyone over the age of six months to be vaccinated, especially if you have chronic medical conditions, are over the age of 65 or will spend time around a newborn during flu season.”

Over a 31-year period, flu-associated deaths nationwide have ranged from about 3,000 to 49,000 each year. For more information on the flu, please visit www.cdc.gov/flu.