

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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Town of Monroe

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Child Flu Vaccine Available at the Monroe Health Department

TOWN OF MONROE, CT (January 11, 2019)

In an effort to protect the public's health and reduce the spread of the influenza (flu) virus, First Selectman Ken Kellogg announced that the Monroe Health Department is again providing flu vaccinations for children by appointment. "We are pleased that through our partnership with the Connecticut Vaccine Program, we can offer this program at a reduced cost to parents," said Kellogg. "In fact, those with financial hardship may be eligible for vaccination of their children at no cost."

Vaccine is available for those 6 months through 18 years old. Nancy Brault, Director of Health, strongly encourages all Monroe residents over the age of 6 months to get a flu shot. "The best protection against the flu is to get vaccinated," said Brault.

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention reports that flu-related hospitalizations among children younger than five years, who are otherwise healthy, are at greater risk simply because of their age. Additionally, children aged two to five are more likely to require medical care because of the flu.

Influenza is a contagious respiratory illness that is spread through the air and by direct contact with respiratory droplets. Typical symptoms of the flu include sudden fever, aching muscles, sore throat, coughing, runny nose, headache, and eye pain. While anyone, particularly individuals who are not vaccinated, can contract the flu, the illness is especially dangerous for children.

The Connecticut Department of Public Health reported that the percentage of outpatient visits with influenza-like illness is currently 4.6%, above the level of 1%, generally considered the minimum threshold for elevated influenza-associated visits in the outpatient setting in Connecticut. A total of 268 hospitalized patients with laboratory-confirmed influenza were admitted between August 26 and December 29, 2018.

To protect your child's health, contact the Monroe Health Department at 203-452-2818 to obtain additional information or to schedule an appointment to have your child vaccinated.

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