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PUBLIC HEALTH for BERLIN, NEWINGTON, ROCKY HILL, & WETHERSFIELD

## PRESS RELEASE

Date: September 4, 2020  
To: Local Media  
Contact: Luis Pantoja, MPH  
Community Health Coordinator

## FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

### CCHD TO HOLD DRIVE-THRU FLU CLINICS

The Central Connecticut Health District (CCHD) encourages all Connecticut residents to get their annual flu shot. Due to Covid-19 concerns, CCHD will be hosting eight DRIVE THRU flu clinics during the month of October in our four district towns of Berlin, Newington, Rocky Hill, and Wethersfield. We invite you to come get your flu shot at one of the following clinics:



BERLIN	
Berlin Senior Center 33 Colonial Drive, Berlin, CT 06037	
Tuesday, October 6 <sup>th</sup> 2 PM – 6 PM	& Wednesday, October 7 <sup>th</sup> 9 AM – 1 PM
WETHERSFIELD	
Wethersfield Community Center 30 Greenfield Street, Wethersfield, CT 06109	
Wednesday, October 14 <sup>th</sup> 2 PM – 6 PM	& Thursday, October 15 <sup>th</sup> 9 AM – 1 PM
NEWINGTON	
Alumni Field 50 Alumni Road, Newington, CT 06111	
Tuesday, October 20 <sup>th</sup> 2 PM – 6 PM	& Wednesday, October 21 <sup>st</sup> 9 AM – 1 PM
ROCKY HILL	
Elm Ridge Park 376 Elm Street, Rocky Hill, CT 06067	
Wednesday, October 28 <sup>th</sup> 2 PM – 6 PM	& Thursday, October 29 <sup>th</sup> 9 AM – 1 PM

A “Drive-Thru” clinic means that it is held at a location where those participating remain within their vehicles while being screened and vaccinated by the same process as a regular walk in clinic. (Pediatric drive-thru vaccination stations will also be made available for children 4-18 years of age and their family members. This area will have space for children to receive their shot outside of the car.)

Drive-thru clinics are especially important this year to contain the spread of Covid-19.

Influenza (flu) is a highly contagious viral respiratory infection affecting the nose, throat, and lungs that can cause mild to severe illnesses **potentially** resulting in hospitalization and can lead to death. In the United States, the CDC estimates that influenza has resulted in between 9.2 million and 35.6 million illnesses, between 140,000 and 710,000 hospitalizations and between 12,000 and 56,000 deaths **annually** since 2010. Symptoms include fever, cough, sore throat, muscle/body aches, runny/stuffy nose, headache, and fatigue. Complications include viral and bacterial pneumonia, ear and/or sinus infections, and worsening of existing chronic medical conditions.

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) recommends annual flu vaccinations for everyone 6 months of age and older, especially among at-risk populations with compromised (weakened) immune systems. Vulnerable populations susceptible to prolonged infection and influenza-related complications include adults over 65 years of age, children under five, pregnant women, and persons with chronic medical conditions such as asthma, lung disease (chronic obstructive pulmonary disease & emphysema), heart disease (congestive heart failure & coronary artery disease), and diabetes.

Annual flu vaccination is the primary method to provide immunity against the influenza virus, lessening illness and death caused by influenza-related complications. Please keep in mind that both influenza and Covid-19 viruses cause respiratory illness. Co-infection is possible, thus, it is even more important to get a flu vaccination since preventing or minimizing flu, may help to diagnose Covid-19 infection more easily. Once a Covid-19 vaccine is available, these same drive-thru clinics will most likely be run again for vaccination against Covid-19.

*\*[FDA approved](#) quadrivalent formulation for the U.S. 2020-2021’s egg-based influenza vaccine provides coverage for the following four strains: A/Guangdong-Maonan/SWL1536/2019 (H1N1) pdm09-like virus; A/HongKong/2671/2019 (H3N2)-like virus; B/Washington/02/2019- like virus (B/Victoria lineage); and B/Phuket/3073/2013-like virus (B/Yamagata lineage). Cell or recombinant based influenza vaccines provide coverage for: A/Hawaii/70/2019 (H1N1) pdm09-like virus; A/HongKong/45/2019 (H3N2)-like virus; B/Washington/02/2019- like virus (B/Victoria lineage); and B/Phuket/3073/2013-like virus (B/Yamagata lineage).*

Please bring your insurance card to the clinic to receive your vaccination at no cost to you. (A photocopy of your card will speed up the process). We bill Aetna, Anthem, CIGNA Healthcare, Connecticare, **Harvard Pilgrim**, United Healthcare Medicare plans, and Medicare part B insurances. The cost for all others is \$25; however, no one will be denied vaccination for inability to pay. For more information on CCHD please contact us by visiting [www.ccthd.org](http://www.ccthd.org). Find us on [Facebook](#) and follow us on Twitter [@CCTHD4](#)!

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