



Jeb Bush
Governor

M. Rony François, M.D., M.S.P.H., Ph.D.
Secretary, Department of Health

PRESS RELEASE 12-15-2006
FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

CONTACT: TIM O'CONNOR
561-355-3576 FAX 355-3035

FLU CASES ON THE RISE HEALTH DEPARTMENT HAS VACCINE

PALM BEACH COUNTY, FL—The latest flu numbers are in and area physicians are reporting another increase in Influenza like cases they are seeing in their offices. This trend is also being reported statewide.

During the past two weeks the number of patients seen with the flu has gone from 14% to 22% with the biggest increase among children 0-4 years of age.

“These physicians reports are a signal the flu season has begun and it is just a matter of time before a wider range of age groups begin catching it.” Said Palm Beach County Health Department Director, Jean Malecki, MD.

When asked, Malecki took the opportunity to remind people about things they can do to prevent the flu. “Get a flu shot. People need to begin getting in the habit of doing this every year, it is an excellent preventive measure and could provide some protection even if we were to have a worldwide outbreak.”

The Health Department's Clinics are now making the flu vaccine available to all on a walk-in basis. In addition to the conventional flu shot vaccine the clinics also have the nasally administered flu vaccine Flumist for those 5 years to 49 years. Clinic locations and walk-in times are:

Delray Beach Health Center, 225 S. Congress, 9:00 AM -5:00 PM Tuesdays

Lantana Health Center, 1250 Southwinds Drive, 9:00 AM-5:00 PM Tuesday and Wednesday

CL Brumback Center, Belle Glade, 38754 SR 80, 9:00 AM-5:00 PM, Monday-Friday

West Palm Beach Health Center, 1150 45th St., 8:00 AM-11:00 AM Monday-Friday

Jupiter Health Center, 6405 Indiantown Rd., 9:00 AM-5:00 PM, Monday - Friday

Other ways of preventing the spread of the flu are:

If symptoms persist see a doctor.

Wash your hands regularly and often with soap and water

Use hand sanitizer if washing isn't an option

Cover your nose and mouth when you sneeze

Stay at home if you are sick.

-30-



Post Office Box 29 / 826 Evernia Street, West Palm Beach, FL 33402

Jean M. Malecki, MD, MPH, FACPM, Director

www.pbchd.com



Jeb Bush
Governor

M. Rony François, M.D., M.S.P.H., Ph.D.
Secretary, Department of Health



Post Office Box 29 / 826 Evernia Street, West Palm Beach, FL 33402
Jean M. Malecki, MD, MPH, FACPM, Director
www.pbchd.com