



**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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## **Increase in Flu-like Illnesses in Kent County Vaccination Clinic Tomorrow**

GRAND RAPIDS – There was an uptick in the number of people coming to Kent County Emergency Departments (ED's) with flu-like illness last week. The week ending January 26, 2013, 12.2% of visits were due to flu-like illness. The week ending January 19, 2013, 11.2% of patients in ED's were complaining of flu-like illness. So far, there are 858 confirmed cases of flu in Kent County this season.

Many people continue to contact the Kent County Health Department regarding flu vaccines. To meet this demand, a flu vaccination clinic will be held tomorrow. "This flu season has been unpredictable, and it is common to see fluctuations week-to-week," says Cathy Raevsky, Administrative Health Officer for the Kent County Health Department. "There are still several dozen openings available. Protect yourself and your family. It's not too late to get vaccinated."

The Kent County Health Department continues to recommend vigilance and is promoting prevention guidelines. Health officials continue to urge everyone to practice preventive measures, such as regular hand washing, to stop the spread of flu. Adults and children with the flu should stay home from school or work until they have been able to keep a normal body temperature for 24 hours, without a fever-reducing medication.

The flu vaccination clinic will be held Thursday, January 31, 2013, from 8 a.m. until 11:30 a.m., at the main Health Department Clinic, 700 Fuller NE, in Grand Rapids. Injections (\$25 each) and nasal mist (\$32 each) will be available. You must call (616) 632-7200 to make an appointment. We bill Medicaid and Medicare. We do not bill private insurance. We accept cash, check, Visa, Mastercard or Discover for payments.

Check out <http://www.sticktototheflu.com/> to learn more about flu vaccinations, prevention tips and treatment. The flu can cause serious complications in pregnant women, people who have weakened immune systems, in the very young and in the elderly. The single best way to protect against the flu is by getting vaccinated. Infants six months of age or younger cannot get a flu vaccine, so it is recommended that family members and people who care for them receive a vaccination.

KCHD has been in the business of providing health services to Kent County since 1931. The Health Department is home to nearly 260 employees including public health nurses, sanitarians, health educators, technicians, public health administrators, and specialized staff at the Kent County Animal Shelter. The Health Department operates one main clinic and four satellite clinics located in Wyoming, Kentwood, Rockford, and Grand Rapids. To learn more about KCHD services, visit [www.accesskent.com/health](http://www.accesskent.com/health).

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HEALTH DEPARTMENT  
NEWS RELEASE



Reporting Date	New Confirmed Cases	2012-2013 Season Confirmed Total
December 18, 2012	5	5
December 26, 2012	107	112
January 2, 2013	130	242
January 8, 2013	221	463
January 15, 2013	127	590
January 22, 2013	137*	727*
January 29, 2013	131	858

(\*Previously reported as 121 new confirmed cases, 711 total. There were 16 additional cases reported to us after the news release was issued on January 23, 2013.)

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