PRESS RELEASE
Date: August 30th, 2021
To: Town Mayors, Managers, School Superintendents, & Local Media
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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Central Connecticut Health District To Hold 9 DriveThru Flu Clinics This October

The Central Connecticut Health District (CCHD) urges all Connecticut residents to get their annual flu vaccination. In response to surging COVID-19 case rates and hospitalizations attributable to the predominant Delta variant across the country, CCHD will be hosting nine traveling DRIVE THRU flu clinics during the month of October 2021, amongst our four district towns of Berlin, Newington, Rocky Hill, and Wethersfield.

Please be advised, all vaccinations are by APPOINTMENT ONLY and must be scheduled ONLINE aboard CCHD’s VACCINE PORTAL. Appointments are limited and will be scheduled on a first reserved, first served basis starting September 1st, 2021. To book an appointment today, please visit: https://www.ccthd.org/vaccine-portal. Need online scheduling assistance? Leave us a voicemail at (860) 785-8380 x 216.

Afternoon drive-thru clinics (2 PM – 6 PM) are scheduled for the first two weeks of October, followed by morning drive-thru clinics (10 AM – 2 PM) for the last two weeks, for a total of two clinics per district town. A special Family/Pediatric drive-thru clinic will be held mid-month on a Saturday morning (10 AM – 2 PM) for families with children ages 4-18 years of age. We invite you to select from the following clinic dates:

- **Berlin:**
  - Wednesday, October 13: 2 PM - 6 PM
  - Friday, October 22: 10 AM - 2 PM

- **Newington:**
  - Wednesday, October 6: 2 PM - 6 PM
  - Wednesday, October 20: 10 AM - 2 PM

- **Rocky Hill:**
  - Tuesday, October 5: 2 PM - 6 PM
  - Thursday, October 14: 10 AM - 2 PM

- **Wethersfield:**
  - Thursday, October 7: 2 PM - 6 PM
  - Tuesday, October 19: 10 AM - 2 PM

- **Family:**
  - Saturday, October 16: 10 AM - 2 PM
Clinic locations & addresses will be provided upon registration. Please remember to bring both your proof of appointment (*automated text or email message*) and your insurance card when driving up at the scheduled time to receive your vaccination at no cost to you. We bill Aetna, CIGNA HealthCare, Connecticare, Harvard Pilgrim, United Healthcare Medicare plans, and Medicare part B insurances. The cost for all others is $25, however, no patient will be denied vaccination for inability to pay.

Influenza (flu) is a highly contagious viral respiratory infection that can result in mild to severe illness potentially requiring hospitalization and can lead to death. In the United States, the CDC estimates that influenza has resulted between 9.2 million - 35.6 million illnesses, between 140,000 - 710,000 hospitalizations, and between 12,000 - 56,000 deaths annually since 2010.

COVID restrictions (*lockdowns/travel bans*) and safety precautions such as masks & social distancing resulted in historically all-time low numbers of flu cases during the 2020-2021 season with only 2,038 cases reported nationwide. For frame of reference, just one year prior, the CDC estimated more than 38 million flu cases reported during the 2019-2020 season. Flu symptoms include fever, cough, sore throat, muscle/body aches, runny/stuffy nose, headache, and fatigue. Complications, including COVID-19 coinfection, include viral & bacterial pneumonias, worsening of existing chronic medical conditions, and respiratory arrest.

Please be advised that both the seasonal influenza season and the current COVID-19 pandemic, both propagated by viral respiratory infections, will coincide and have the potential to synergize this fall/winter. Data suggests flu vaccination may protect against severe COVID-19 and reduce the likelihood of emergency department (ED) / intensive care unit (ICU) admissions. According to findings presented at the *European Society of Clinical Microbiology and Infectious Diseases* conference, COVID-19 patients whom had not received flu vaccination were 45-58% more likely to have a stroke, about 40% more likely to develop deep vein thrombosis (DVT) and 36-45% more likely to have sepsis. Vaccination is the primary method to provide systemic immunity, thus CCHD strongly urges all Connecticut residents to vaccinate against both influenza and SARS-CoV-2 viruses.

CCHD will be administering GlaxoSmithKline Biological’s (GSK) Fluarix Quadrivalent flu vaccine. Per the *FDA’s recommendation*, the egg-based quadrivalent formulation contains the following coverage for the 2021-2022 influenza season: an A/Victoria/2570/2019 (H1N1) pdm09-like virus; an A/Cambodia/e0826360/2020 (H3N2)-like virus; a B/Washington/02/2019- like virus (B/Victoria lineage); and a B/Phuket/3073/2013-like virus (B/Yamagata lineage).

For more information on CCHD, please visit us at [www.ccthd.org](http://www.ccthd.org). Interested in volunteering? [Sign up HERE](#). Make sure to also find us on social media: like us on [Facebook](http://www.facebook.com), follow us on [Twitter](http://www.twitter.com), subscribe to us on [YouTube](http://www.youtube.com), and connect with us on [LinkedIn](http://www.linkedin.com)!

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The Central Connecticut Health District (CCHD) is the local health department serving the towns of Berlin, Newington, Rocky Hill, and Wethersfield. The district was formed in June 1996 with the towns of Rocky Hill and Wethersfield. Berlin joined the District in 1998, followed by Newington in 2006. CCHD is overseen by a thirteen member Board of Health and functions as an independent entity of government. CCHD underwent centralization in 2019 and is currently located in Rocky Hill.

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