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NEWS RELEASE

Oakland County Health Division: Vaccines, Masks, and Social Distancing Are Key to Getting Through Flu Season During Pandemic

Pontiac, Mich., Sept. 23, 2021 – Oakland County Health Division **advises residents to protect themselves this flu season by getting both the COVID-19 and flu vaccines.** Also, precautions taken to limit the transmission of COVID-19 such as **wearing masks and social distancing also substantially lower the likelihood of spreading influenza.** The risk of serious illness or death from COVID-19 is higher if one has the flu at the same time.

“The risk of death from COVID-19 is more than triple that of seasonal flu. In fact, **your risk of death from COVID-19 more than doubles in people who have the flu,**” Oakland County Health Division Medical Director **Dr. Russell Faust** said. “So, **get vaccinated for both** this flu season and **take the common-sense measures** that limited the number of flu cases last season.”

New cases of COVID-19 continue to rise, especially among school age and college age residents. More than two out of five new cases from Sept. 6-19 were ages 29 years and younger. One in four new cases were 18 years and younger, up from one in five last week. The seven-day case average in Oakland County was 225 new COVID-19 cases per day, or more than 1,500 new cases per week. Currently, nearly 48,000 Oakland County residents from 12-18 years old remain unvaccinated.

The Oakland County Health Division continues to hold daily COVID-19 vaccine clinics from 9:00 a.m. – 4:30 p.m. at both its North Oakland Health Center in Pontiac and South Oakland Health Center in Southfield **in addition to pop-up clinics in the community.** Click on [OaklandCountyVaccine.com](https://oaklandcountyvaccine.com) to locate the nearest Health Division vaccine clinic. Those who do not have access to the Internet may call the Nurse on Call at 800-848-5533 Monday through Friday, 8:30 a.m. – 5 p.m. for more information.

Oakland County Health Division expects to begin offering the flu vaccine sometime in October and will make an announcement when they have supply to administer. Meanwhile, the **flu vaccine may be available at pharmacies and healthcare providers** before then.

The following is an update on **progress vaccinating Oakland County residents**, according to the State of Michigan COVID-19 Vaccine Dashboard as of Sep. 21, 2021:

- Total eligible residents 16 and older: 1,029,737
 - Number of residents 16 and older who have received first dose: 760,805

- Number of residents 16 and older who have completed vaccination: 707,961
- Vaccine coverage for residents 16 and older: 73.9 percent
- Total eligible residents 12 and older: 1,091,389
 - Number of residents 12 and older who have received first dose: 794,587
 - Number of residents 12 years and older who have completed vaccination: 738,246
 - Vaccine coverage for residents 12 and older: 72.8 percent
- Total eligible senior residents 65 and older: 217,676
 - Number of senior residents who have received first dose: 189,956
 - Number of senior residents who have completed vaccination: 180,878
 - Vaccine coverage for senior residents: 87.3 percent
- Total doses distributed within Oakland County: 1,584,645
 - Total doses administered within Oakland County: 1,475,986
 - Percentage of doses administered within Oakland County: 93.1%
- Total third doses administered in Region 2 North (Oakland, Macomb, and St. Clair counties): 19,033