

Date: September 24, 2024

To: Thomas B. Modica, City Manager *TBM*

From: Alison King, Director of Health and Human Services *AK*

For: Mayor and Members of the City Council

Subject: **Health Department to Offer Free Flu Vaccinations at Community Clinics**

The Long Beach Department of Health and Human Services (Health Department) is offering free flu vaccinations at community clinics throughout the flu season, while supplies last.

The largest vaccine clinic of the year will be held from 2:00 to 7:00 p.m. on Thursday, October 17, 2024, at Main Health (2525 Grand Ave.). This year's theme is "Boo 2 Flu," and people of all ages are encouraged to dress up in costume and show off their spooky spirit! The clinic will be walk-up, with no appointments required; however, people may also schedule appointments through [MyTurn.ca.gov](https://www.myturn.ca.gov). Accessible services will be available, including a drive-up option for those with disabilities to receive vaccinations in their vehicles.

In addition to the large-scale flu clinic at Main Health, flu vaccines will be available throughout the flu season at several community clinics. These clinics will be walk-up as well, with no appointments necessary. The final schedule of clinic locations and dates will be listed at longbeach.gov/flu. A tentative schedule is as follows:

- Thursday, Oct. 3, from 2 p.m. to 6 p.m., Ramona Park (3301 E. 65th St.)
- Tuesday, Oct. 8, from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m., Houghton Park (6301 Myrtle Ave.)
- Wednesday, Oct. 9, from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m., Silverado Park (1545 W 31st St.)
- Friday, Oct. 11, from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m., MacArthur Park (1321 E. Anaheim St.)
- Tuesday, Oct. 15, from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m., El Dorado Park (2800 N. Studebaker Rd.)
- Friday, October 18, from 2 p.m. to 6 p.m., Bixby Park (130 Cherry Ave.)
- Tuesday, October 22, from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m., Long Beach Senior Center (1150 E 4th St.)
- Friday, Oct. 25, from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m., McBride Park (1550 Martin Luther King Jr Ave.)
- Tuesday, Oct. 29, from 2 p.m. to 6 p.m., Admiral Kidd Park (2125 Santa Fe Ave.)

Clinical staff will provide the flu vaccine via drive-up service to community members who are not able to leave their vehicles. Prominent onsite signage with a number to call for assistance will be available.

Last year, during the 2023-2024 respiratory season, there were 1,593 laboratory-confirmed influenza cases and nine confirmed deaths reported in Long Beach. It should also be noted

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that the true number of people with influenza is likely higher since not everyone goes to the doctor or gets tested. The 2024–2025 respiratory season has already begun and, unfortunately, the first influenza associated death was reported earlier this month, a resident over the age of 65. The Health Department strongly recommends that everyone six months of age and older get the flu vaccine every year, especially for those with health conditions that may increase their risk of serious complications from the flu. Although vaccination does not prevent all flu illnesses, vaccinations help prevent severe flu illness requiring hospitalization or intensive care unit (ICU) admission, and even death. Additionally, greater community coverage through the vaccine will also help alleviate potential burdens on the healthcare system.

The City conducts large-scale flu vaccination clinics each year as a training exercise for mass vaccination efforts. These clinics allow the Health Department to refine processes, identify potential challenges, and enhance response strategies. These trainings proved critical during the COVID-19 mass vaccination campaign, and the City continues to work on improving efforts annually. Ongoing practice is a vital component of public health preparedness strategies.

For more information regarding the community clinics, please contact the Immunization Clinic at (562) 570-7912 or visit www.longbeach.gov/flu.

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