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

PINELLAS COUNTY HEALTH DEPARTMENT

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Contact:

Jeannine Mallory, Public Information Officer
PINELLAS COUNTY HEALTH DEPARTMENT
727-824-6908 (media only)

Pinellas County Health Department has received 5,000 additional doses
Influenza Vaccination Week is Nov. 27 through Dec. 3

The Pinellas County Health Department has received an additional shipment of 5,000 doses of adult flu vaccine. Health officials recommend that individuals take this opportunity to get vaccinated against influenza. To raise awareness of the importance of continuing influenza vaccination throughout November, December and beyond, the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) has announced the designation of the week after Thanksgiving as **National Influenza Vaccination Week**.

You can get a flu shot at your own doctor's office, area walk-in clinics, at flu shot events hosted by local supermarkets and others or at the Pinellas County Health Department. There are five Pinellas County Health Department centers:

1. St. Petersburg – 205 Dr. ML King Street North; 727-824-6900
2. Clearwater – 310 N. Myrtle Avenue; 727-469-5800
3. Pinellas Park – 6350 76th Avenue North; 727-547-7780
4. Largo – 12420 130th Avenue North; 727-588-4040; and
5. Tarpon Springs – 301 South Disston Avenue – 727-942-5457.

While vaccine supplies are plentiful at this time, it is always a good idea to call the center first to check on availability and hours. The cost of a flu shot at the health department is \$25. Pneumonia vaccines are also available for \$34. Bring your Medicare card, health insurance cards and a photo ID if paying by check or credit card.

Getting vaccinated is the single best way for individuals to protect themselves and their loved ones against flu, which each year infects 5 to 20 percent of the U.S. population. About 36,000 people each year die, and more than 200,000 people are hospitalized in the U.S. due to influenza complications.

Health officials recommend flu shots for everyone this year, and especially for individuals in the following groups:

- Individuals age 50 and older;
- Residents of and staff of long-term care facilities;
- Individuals with chronic medical conditions and their household contacts;
- Children aged six months to five years of age, their household contacts and out-of-home caregivers;
- Pregnant women or women who will be pregnant during flu season;
- Health care personnel; and
- Household contacts and out-of-home caregivers of children less than six months of age.

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The mission of the Pinellas County Health Department is to promote, protect and improve the health and safety of our community through public and private partnerships in an environment that respects diversity. www.PinellasHealth.com