



Charlie Crist  
Governor

Ana M. Viamonte Ros, M.D., M.P.H.  
State Surgeon General

**For Immediate Release**  
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**Contact: Marne Cothran**  
**Phone: 941-624-7200 extension 7261**  
**Email: [marne\\_cothran@doh.state.fl.us](mailto:marne_cothran@doh.state.fl.us)**



## **NEWS RELEASE**

### **Flu & Pneumonia Shots are Offered in Englewood**

**Port Charlotte (FL)** – The Florida Department of Health, Charlotte County Health Department is accepting appointments for seasonal flu and pneumonia shots at the Englewood clinic beginning on Wednesday, September 22, 2010 and Thursday, September 23, 2010 from 8 – 11 AM and 1 – 4 PM. Appointments may be made in advance by calling 941-681-3750. Influenza (flu) vaccinations are \$25.00 and pneumonia vaccinations are \$50.00. Acceptable forms of payment are cash, check, Visa, MasterCard and Medicare. We are unable to accept Medicare HMOs at this time. The free flu vaccine (VFC) for children is not available at this time.

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) recommends that everyone 6 months and older get a 2010-2011 seasonal flu shot. The seasonal flu vaccine contains protection against an H3N2 virus, an influenza B virus, and the 2009 H1N1 virus.

#### **Why is it so important to prevent the flu?**

**Prevent severe illness.** In the U.S., the flu puts about 200,000 people in the hospital each year.

**Prevent flu-related death.** Each year, over 36,000 people in the U.S. die because of the flu—most are 65 or older. More people die from flu than from any other vaccine-preventable disease.

**Prevent missed school and missed work.** According to the National Foundation for Infectious Diseases, the flu costs American businesses more than \$7 billion a year in sick days and lost productivity.

**Protect other people.** You should be vaccinated if you live with or care for others who are at high risk of complications from the flu. Flu vaccinations protect you, your family members, and your community.

#### **Tips to prevent the Flu:**

- Wash your hands often with soap and water.
- Keep your hands away from your face.
- Avoid contact with sick people.
- Stay home if you are sick.
- Cover your mouth and nose with a tissue when sneezing and coughing.
- You can still spread germs up to 7 days after getting sick.

For additional information including flu prevention, future clinic times and locations, and forms to expedite your visit, please visit the CCHD Web site at [www.charlottechd.com](http://www.charlottechd.com).

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