

# COUNTY OF KANE



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## **Kane County Health Department Urges Residents to Get Vaccinated Against Respiratory Illnesses Before the Fall and Winter Seasons**

Media Release - 9/17/24 - The Kane County Health Department (KCHD) is urging residents to get vaccinated against respiratory illnesses ahead of the fall and winter seasons. Every year, viruses like influenza (flu), COVID-19, and respiratory syncytial virus (RSV) cause hundreds of thousands of hospitalizations and thousands of deaths during this time.

As we approach respiratory virus season, KCHD recommends that residents protect themselves and their families by ensuring all family members are up to date on immunizations and are taking other preventive measures.

"Getting vaccinated against viruses like the flu, RSV, and COVID-19 is the best way to reduce the spread of infection," said KCHD Executive Director Michael Isaacson. "While these illnesses can be mild for some, they pose serious risks to older adults, infants, and those with underlying health conditions. Vaccines are proven to be safe and effective, and we recommend discussing the best options with your healthcare provider."

The updated COVID-19 and new annual flu vaccines are available to protect against this season's strains. RSV vaccines are also offered to eligible groups. Residents should talk to their doctor or pharmacist about vaccinations for respiratory illness prevention. Local healthcare centers accept Medicare and Medicaid and may offer sliding fee scales for low-income families.

In addition to immunizations, staying home when sick, washing hands, improving airflow, masking, and physical distancing can provide extra protection from respiratory viruses.

According to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, COVID-19 activity is currently high across Illinois, while flu and RSV levels are low but expected to increase.

More information about respiratory diseases is available at:

<https://kanehealth.com/Pages/Respiratory-Viruses.aspx>