



Press

Release



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For Immediate Release

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Flu-Related Children's Deaths in Texas Highlight the Need for Immunizations

Wichita Falls, Texas–The Texas Department of State Health Services (DSHS) has confirmed that six children have died in Texas of flu-related causes since the start of the 2019-2020 flu season. The children's ages range from under one year to sixteen years old. Four of the six children were not vaccinated or were not able to be vaccinated, the other two cases are still under investigation.

The recent flu related child death in Wichita County was determined to be positive for Influenza B, which is the dominant strain this flu season. Influenza B is covered by the 2019-2020 flu vaccine.

Young children, individuals with chronic health conditions, pregnant women, and older adults are at higher risk of hospitalizations, developing serious complications, or death due to the flu. The Wichita Falls – Wichita County Public Health District recommends everyone 6 months or older get the flu shot to protect themselves and those who cannot be vaccinated. This simple action reduces the ability for the flu to spread.

Along with vaccination, other safety measures that can be taken to prevent catching the flu and to also protect those around you include:

- Washing your hands often;
- Covering sneezes and coughs;
- Keeping hands away from the face;
- Avoiding people who are ill with the flu;
- Staying home if sick; and
- Avoiding large groups of people.

If you or your family need flu vaccinations please see your regular healthcare provider, or come to the Health District. The Health District's Immunization Clinic hours are:

- Monday – Thursday: 8:00am - 11:30am and 1:00pm - 4:30pm
- Friday: 8:00am - 1:00pm
- Late clinic is on December 16th from 5:00pm - 6:30pm

The Health District's Immunization Clinic can be reached at (940) 761-6841.

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