



**HEALTH DEPARTMENT**  
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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

December 5th, 2023

**National Influenza Vaccination Week**  
*Aims to Protect Communities*

The Northern Michigan Public Health Alliance and the Grand Traverse County Health Department (GTCHD) are joining the nation in observing National Influenza Vaccination Week from December 5th to 8th. This annual event serves as a reminder of the importance of influenza vaccination while being around friends and family during the holiday season.

Influenza, commonly known as the flu, poses a significant threat to public health every year. The virus can lead to severe illness, hospitalization, and even death, particularly for vulnerable populations such as young children, the elderly, and those with underlying health conditions. By getting vaccinated, individuals not only protect themselves but also contribute to the overall immunity of the community.

"National Influenza Vaccination Week is a reminder that it's not too late for you and your family to get the flu vaccine this season," said GTCHD Communicable Disease and Immunization Supervisor Jacalyn Money-Bruno, MPH, BSN, RN, CIC. "A flu vaccine is the best way to help protect yourself and your loved ones against flu and its potentially serious outcomes."

This year's campaign emphasizes the following key messages:

- Early Vaccination: Getting vaccinated early in the season is important for building immunity before the flu virus becomes widespread. GTCHD encourages everyone, six months of age and older, to get their flu shot.
- Community Protection: Achieving high vaccination rates is essential to create a protective shield around our communities. By getting vaccinated, individuals play a vital role in preventing the spread of the flu.
- Accessibility: GTCHD offers immunizations by appointment only, for additional locations, visit [vaccinefinder.gov](http://vaccinefinder.gov).
- Special Considerations for High-Risk Groups: Those at higher risk for complications from the flu, including young children, pregnant women, the elderly, and individuals with chronic health conditions, are strongly encouraged to receive the vaccine.
- Combating COVID-19 and Influenza: With both the flu and COVID-19 potentially impacting communities simultaneously, vaccination against both viruses is crucial.

GTCHD offers the flu and COVID-19 vaccine for residents six months of age and older by appointment only. For more information regarding vaccinations, consult with your primary care provider or schedule a visit with us by calling 231-995-6131.

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