

Nov. 21, 2012

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE Cumberland County Department of Public Health Contact: Maureen Mercer, Immunization Coordinator Phone: (910) 433-3658 <u>mmercer@co.cumberland.nc.us</u>

Health Department Offers Free Flu Shots

FAYETTEVILLE – The Cumberland County Department of Public Health is offering free flu shots to any uninsured patient six months or older.

Clinic hours are Monday-Thursday, 8 a.m. -11:30 a.m. and 1 p.m. -4 p.m. Friday hours are 8 a.m. -11:30 a.m. and by appointment only on Friday afternoon. The Health Department offers evening hours for immunizations on Tuesdays until 7 p.m.

The Health Department is located at 1235 Ramsey St. For more information, call the Immunization Clinic at (910) 433-3633 or (910) 433-3657.

The Health Department will be closed for the Thanksgiving Holiday on Thursday and Friday, Nov. 22 and 23.

Medicaid, Medicare, NC Health Choice and Blue Cross Blue Shield or any third-party insurance plan will be billed. There is no out-of-pocket cost for patients with insurance.

While flu can have serious implications even for healthy people, flu complications are most common among very young children and people over 50, as well as people with chronic health conditions and pregnant women.

In addition to vaccinations, you can prevent flu and other illness by:

- Covering coughs and sneezes with a tissue and then discarding the tissue properly;
- Washing hands frequently with soap and water or, if not available, with an approved hand sanitizer;
- Staying home when you are sick. Stay home until you are fever free for at least 24 hours.

For additional information about the Cumberland County Department of Public Health, please call 910-433-3600 or visit with someone at the information desk. Comments are welcome and can be submitted on our website at <u>www.co.cumberland.nc.us/health/comment_form.aspx</u>. The Health Department is located at 1235 Ramsey St. in Fayetteville