FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Department of Public Health

Contact: Maureen Mercer, Immunization Coordinator

Telephone: 910-433-3658

E-mail: <u>mmercer@co.cumberland.nc.us</u>

Health Department Offers Free Flu Shots to Uninsured Children

FAYETTEVILLE – The Cumberland County Department of Public Health is offering free flu shots to uninsured **children** six months to 18 years old. Other individuals may receive a flu shot at no out-of-pocket cost to them if they have Medicare, Medicaid, North Carolina Health Choice or Blue Cross Blue Shield because the health department will file the claim for them.

All other patients will pay at the time of service. Individuals with other types of insurance will be given the necessary reimbursement paperwork to file with their providers.

Clinic hours are Monday-Thursday, 8 a.m. -11:30 a.m. and 1 p.m. -4:30 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 only for immunizations on Tuesdays until 6:30 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.

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 www.co.cumberland.nc.us/health/comment_form.aspx. The Health Department is located at 1235 Ramsey St. in Fayetteville.