

COUNTY OF KANE



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The Kane County Health Department Encourages Residents to Get Vaccinated Against Respiratory Illnesses Ahead of the Fall and Winter Seasons

(Media Release – 9/18/24) Every year, respiratory viruses such as influenza (flu), COVID-19, and respiratory syncytial virus (RSV) cause hundreds of thousands of hospitalizations and thousands of deaths during the fall and winter virus season. As we enter respiratory virus season, the Kane County Health Department is recommending that residents protect themselves and their families by making sure that all family members are up to date on their immunizations and are taking other preventative measures.

"Getting vaccinated against viruses like the flu, RSV, and COVID-19 is the best way to help reduce the spread of infection," said KCHD Executive Director Michael Isaacson. "These illnesses can be mild for some but 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. Talk to your doctor or pharmacist about vaccinations for respiratory illness prevention. [Area health care centers](#) accept Medicare and Medicaid or offer a sliding fee scale for low-income families. KCHD offers immunizations for children up to age 18. For eligibility, appointments and referrals, please call 630-264-7665.

In addition to immunizations, staying home when sick, washing hands, improving airflow, masking and physical distancing can provide an additional layer of 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 anticipated to increase.

More information about respiratory diseases is available at:

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

