

SCGOVHEALTHnews

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MEDIA NOTE: The list of drive-thru flu shot clinics was previously released in late August. This is a reminder with the first drive-thru clinic starting tomorrow, Sept. 16 in Sarasota.

Roll up your sleeve – Drive-Thru Flu Shot Clinics now available

Getting a seasonal flu shot is easy with several drive-thru flu shot clinics scheduled this season. Public health officials say that getting a flu shot is your best defense against this serious illness. Everyone six months and older is encouraged to get a flu shot. To protect babies under six months of age who are too young for a flu shot, all members of their households need to be vaccinated.

The first four drive-thru flu seasonal flu shot clinics are scheduled as follows:

Wednesday, Sept. 16; 10 a.m. to noon - Drive Thru

St. Thomas More Catholic Church
2506 Gulf Gate Dr., Sarasota
Provider: Sarasota Health Care Services

Thursday, Sept. 17; 10 a.m. to noon - Drive Thru

Venice Assembly of God Church
695 Center Road, Sarasota,
(Please enter driveway east of church)
Provider: Sarasota Health Care Services

Friday, Sept. 18; 10 a.m. to noon - Drive Thru

Sarasota Baptist Church
7091 Proctor Road, Sarasota
Provider: Sarasota Health Care Services

Saturday, Sept. 26; 10 a.m. to noon – Drive Thru

The Tabernacle Church
4141 Desoto Road, Sarasota
(Please enter from University Parkway)
Provider: Sarasota Health Care Services

Wednesday, Sept. 30; 10 a.m. to noon – Drive Thru

The Sahib Temple
600 N. Beneva Road, Sarasota

(Please enter from 17th St. to Circus Blvd.)
Provider: Sarasota Health Care Services

Saturday, Oct. 10; 10 a.m. to noon – Drive Thru

Suncoast Worship Center
881 S. River Road, Englewood
Provider: Visiting Nurses Association (VNA)

Tuesday, Oct. 13; 10 a.m. to noon – Drive Thru

Our Lady of Mt. Carmel Parish
425 Tamiami Trail, Osprey
(Please enter from Bay Road – Walmart)
Provider: Visiting Nurses Association (VNA)

The seasonal flu vaccine will not protect against the H1N1 (swine) flu virus. The H1N1 flu vaccine may be available in mid-October.

Sarasota Flu and Pneumonia Coalition partner organizations Maxim Healthcare Services, Optima Health Care, Sarasota Health Care, Visiting Nurses Association (VNA), Sarasota Memorial Health Care Systems, Nokomis Walk-In, Sarasota Immediate Care Walk-In and Sarasota Family Medical Walk-In clinics are also providing many other flu shot opportunities. The cost of a flu shot at these locations will be between \$20 and \$30. Pneumonia vaccine will be \$45 - \$50, depending on the provider. Cash and check are accepted. If you have Medicare B, bring a copy of your card with you.

Those who participate in the drive-thru clinics will be required to complete an authorization forms. These are available in advance at Sarasota County libraries or on-line at www.sarasotahealth.org. Blank forms will be available to be completed on-site.

Other ways to prevent the flu include:

- Cover your face and nose when you cough or sneeze with tissue or the inside of your elbow.
- Wash hands often with soap and water or an alcohol-based hand cleaner.
- Stay home when sick and keep sick children home until free from fever for at least 24 hours, without fever-reducing medications.

Call the Sarasota County Health Department's flu information line **941-861-2800** or visit their website: www.sarasotahealth.org for a schedule of seasonal flu shot clinics including the drive-thru locations. Those who are hearing impaired can call the Sarasota County Call Center, TDD line at 941-861-1833.

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