

**For Immediate Release**

DATE: 12/13/2023

Contact: Oneida County Health Department (715) 369-6111

**Protect You and Your Family this Respiratory Illness Season with Vaccines**

It is never too late to protect yourself, family, and community with flu, COVID-19, and 60 or older adult RSV vaccines.

As respiratory illnesses continue to spread, public health officials encourage you to protect yourself and your family by getting a yearly flu and COVID-19 vaccine. You can get both vaccines for as long as the diseases are spreading. This year, the CDC has also approved a single-dose RSV vaccine for adults 60 years or older.

Everyone ages 6 months and older is recommended to get a yearly flu and COVID-19 vaccine. Getting a flu and COVID-19 vaccine is especially important for people at higher risk for serious disease complications, including:

- People who are pregnant
- Young children
- People 65 years and older, especially those living in group settings
- People with certain medical conditions, such as asthma or heart disease

Everyone 60 and older is recommended to talk to their doctor about getting a yearly RSV vaccine. This approved RSV vaccine can protect older adults against serious RSV complications, especially those living in group settings. Parents of infants and children under two are also encouraged to talk with their child's pediatrician about receiving one dose of nirsevimab, a monoclonal antibody, to prevent severe illness from RSV.

Getting vaccinated is one of the best ways to stay healthy and prevent getting sick with respiratory illnesses like the flu, COVID-19, and RSV. It is never too late to get protection. You can safely get your yearly flu vaccine, yearly COVID-19 vaccine, and RSV vaccine (if 60 or older) this respiratory season.

Contact your health care provider, local pharmacy, or local health department today to make vaccine appointments for yourself and your family.

Please check with your health insurance plan about any costs associated with each vaccine. If you don't have insurance or under insured, check with Bridge Access Program or if the cost of the vaccine is a concern, you or your children may be eligible for free or lower-cost vaccines. Want to learn more? Please visit

<https://www.cdc.gov/vaccines/programs/bridge/index.html>

For more information visit our website at [oneidacountypublichealth.org](https://www.oneidacountypublichealth.org), follow us on Facebook, or call Oneida County Health Department at 715-369-6111.

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