FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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MONONGALIA COUNTY HEALTH DEPARTMENT BEGINS FLU VACCINATION CLINICS
MORGANTOWN, WV – SEPTEMBER 18, 2015

INFLUENZA CAN BE A SERIOUS DISEASE THAT CAN LEAD TO HOSPITALIZATION AND EVEN DEATH. ANYONE CAN GET SICK FROM THE FLU. THE FIRST AND MOST IMPORTANT STEP IN PROTECTING AGAINST THE FLU IS TO GET A FLU VACCINATION EACH SEASON.

THERE ARE TWO REASONS WHY IT IS RECOMMENDED THAT EVERYONE SIX MONTHS OF AGE AND OLDER SHOULD GET THE 2015-2016 FLU VACCINATION. THE FIRST REASON IS THAT THE FLU VIRUSES ARE CONSTANTLY CHANGING FROM SEASON TO SEASON SO FLU VACCINES MAY BE UPDATED FROM ONE SEASON TO THE NEXT TO PROTECT AGAINST THE VIRUSES PREDICTED TO CIRCULATE THE MOST DURING THE COMING FLU SEASON. THE SECOND REASON THAT ANNUAL VACCINATION IS RECOMMENDED IS THAT A PERSON’S IMMUNITY PROTECTION FROM VACCINE DECLINES OVER TIME AND ANNUAL VACCINATION IS NEEDED FOR OPTIMAL PROTECTION.

CDC RECOMMENDS THAT PEOPLE GET VACCINATED AGAINST THE FLU SOON AFTER THE VACCINE BECOMES AVAILABLE, IF POSSIBLE BY OCTOBER. THIS IS BECAUSE IT TAKES ABOUT TWO WEEKS AFTER VACCINATION FOR ANTIBODIES TO DEVELOP IN THE BODY AND PROVIDE PROTECTION AGAINST THE FLU. CHILDREN AGED 6 MONTHS THROUGH 8 YEARS WHO NEED TWO DOSES OF VACCINE SHOULD RECEIVE THE FIRST DOSE AS SOON AS POSSIBLE TO ALLOW TIME TO GET THE SECOND DOSE BEFORE THE START OF FLU SEASON. THE TWO DOSES SHOULD BE GIVEN AT LEAST FOUR WEEKS APART. YOUR HEALTHCARE PROVIDER WILL INFORM YOU IF YOUR CHILD NEEDS TWO DOSES.

YOU CAN GET A FLU VACCINATION EVEN IF YOU DON’T HAVE A REGULAR DOCTOR. FLU VACCINATIONS ARE OFFERED IN MANY LOCATIONS, INCLUDING CLINICS, HEALTH DEPARTMENTS, RETAIL STORES AND PHARMACIES. IT’S NOT POSSIBLE TO PREDICT HOW MILD OR SEVERE THE 2015-2016 FLU SEASON WILL BE, SO PLEASE TAKE THE TIME TO PROTECT YOURSELF AND THE PEOPLE AROUND YOU BY GETTING YOUR ANNUAL FLU VACCINATION.

FLU VACCINATIONS ARE NOW AVAILABLE AT THE MONONGALIA COUNTY HEALTH DEPARTMENT (MCHD) AND THE FIRST MCHD FLU VACCINATION CLINIC IS SCHEDULED FOR SEPTEMBER 22 FROM 8:30AM – 10:00AM. FLU VACCINATION CLINICS ARE BY APPOINTMENT ONLY. MCHD WILL ACCEPT WALK-INS BUT THERE MAY BE A WAIT TIME. WAIT TIMES CAN BE AVOIDED BY SCHEDULING AN APPOINTMENT.

IF YOU HAVE ANY QUESTIONS CONCERNING THE FLU VACCINE, COST OF VACCINATION, INSURANCE COVERAGE OR WISH TO MAKE AN APPOINTMENT CALL: 304-598-5119.

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