



MEDIA ADVISORY

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
October 15, 2008

In Economic Slump, Flu Shots Save Costs of Lost Wages, Out-of-Pocket Medical Expenses and Hospitalization

In an effort to combat illness and avoid absenteeism due to the flu, the Howard County Health Department will be at the 50+ Expo giving flu shots to those protecting themselves and their families from costly doctor visits, emergency room visits, lost wages and the sometimes deadly influenza.

An average of 300,000 people are hospitalized and 20,000 to 40,000 people die from influenza and its complications each year. The estimated annual cost of influenza in the United States is \$14.6 billion in physician visits, lost productivity, and lost wages. The risks for hospitalization and death from influenza are higher among persons aged 65 or older and persons at any age with underlying high risk medical conditions.

WHO: Dr. Peter Beilenson, Howard County Health Officer

WHAT: To administer flu shots to combat direct and indirect monetary losses due to flu illness.

WHEN: Friday, October 17, 2008, 1:00pm

WHERE: 50+ Expo
Wilde Lake High School
5460 Trumpeter Road, Columbia, MD 21044

WHY: To demonstrate the importance of getting a flu vaccine to prevent time lost in emergency rooms, doctor visits, lost wages and other associated health care costs due to illness from influenza.

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