



Grant County Health District – Always Working for a Healthier and Safer Grant County

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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FOR INFORMATION CONTACT:

TO: Emergency Rooms in Grant County
Walk-in Clinics in Grant County
Healthcare Provider Offices in Grant County
EMS Providers in Grant County
School District Nurses in Grant County
Grant County Healthcare Emergencies Alliance

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Grant County Flu Surveillance – October 24th 2008 – 1/30/2009

- 15 cases reported in Grant County.

Medical Facilities Reporting Flu Cases	# Cases	Type A	Type B
Columbia Basin Hospital – ER	3	0	3
Columbia Basin Family Medicine	5	0	5
Moses Lake Clinic – Walk-in	3	3	0
Moses Lake Clinic – Pediatrics	2	2	0
Samaritan Healthcare – ER	1	1	0
Samaritan Urgent Care	1	1	0

- Cases are ranging from 5 months to 51 years of age
- 14 of the 15 cases **did not** receive a flu vaccine this year.

Washington State Flu Surveillance – Week # 2 1/11 – 1/17 09

Washington State Department of Health reports Influenza activity continues to be low but is slowly increasing. The activity remains sporadic throughout the state. Influenza and pneumonia related deaths remain below state average. There have been no pediatric Influenza related deaths in Washington State.

There were **28 new cases** reported by physicians.

- 14 (50%) were children from birth to age 4
- 11 (39%) were from 5 to 24 years of age
- 3 (11%) were from 25 – 64 years of age

U.S. Flu Surveillance - Week # 2 1/11 – 1/17 09

The Center for Disease Control reports influenza activity continued to slowly increase in the United States.

- The proportion of deaths attributed to pneumonia and influenza (P&I) was below the national average.

- Two influenza-associated pediatric deaths were reported from the states of Colorado and Texas.
- The proportion of outpatient visits for influenza-like illness (ILI) was below national and region-specific baseline levels.

Children's Influenza Vaccine Options

CDC recommends that all children from the ages of 6 months up to their 19th birthday get a flu vaccine every fall or winter (children getting a vaccine for the first time need two doses).

- Flu shots can be given to children 6 months and older.
- A nasal-spray vaccine can be given to healthy children 2 years and older (children under 5 years old who have had wheezing in the past year or any child with chronic health problems should get the flu shot).
- Close contacts of children younger than 5 or children with chronic health problem like asthma (breathing disease) or diabetes (high blood sugar levels) should be encouraged to get their annual influenza vaccine.

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