

PRESS RELEASE
December 28, 2004

MASON COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
411 NORTH 5TH ST
SHELTON, WA 98584
(360) 427-9670 EXT. 419

TO: KMAS, KRXY, SHELTON-MASON COUNTY JOURNAL, THE OLYMPIAN, SHELTON CHAMBER OF COMMERCE, NORTH MASON CHAMBER OF COMMERCE, CITY OF SHELTON, ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COUNCIL, THE SUN

RE: Increased Availability of Flu Vaccine in Mason County

Effective immediately, Mason County Department of Health Services is adopting the revised recommendations from the federal Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices regarding Flu Vaccine. These expanded eligibility priorities make the vaccine available to **persons over 50 years of age, out-of-home caregivers and those living with any high risk person**, in addition to those previously eligible (children age 6 months to 23 months of age, adults aged 65 years and older, persons age 2 to 64 years with underlying chronic medical conditions, all women who will be pregnant during the influenza season, residents of nursing homes and long-term care facilities, children aged 6 months to 18 years of age on chronic aspirin therapy, health-care workers involved in direct patient care, and out-of-home caregivers and household contacts of children age 6 months and less. The Health Department in Shelton has approximately 390 doses remaining for this Influenza season. To schedule an appointment to receive a Flu vaccine at the Health Department, please call (360) 427-9670 ext. 720 or (360) 275-4467 ext. 720. Flu Vaccine is also available at Shelton Family Medicine in Shelton (for appointment call (360) 426-2653). No more Flu vaccine will be available this Flu season when this supply is exhausted. Flu season may not peak until February or March, so there is still time to get a flu shot. Immunization against Influenza is still the best protection, especially for people at higher risk for respiratory complications. For the latest information, please telephone our automated information line at (360) 427-9670 or (360) 275- 4467 ext. 599. For additional information, you may contact Steve Kutz at 360-427-9670, Ext. 260.

BOARD OF MASON COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

Wesley Johnson
Chairperson

Herb Baze
Commissioner

Jayni Kamin
Commissioner