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BROWN COUNTY EXECUTIVE

Release Date:
January 15, 2021

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MEDIA ADVISORY

Brown County Urges Seniors to Get Flu Vaccine

County Executive, ADRC, Public Health Speaking to This Vulnerable Population

(Brown County, Wis.) – As COVID-19 vaccines begin to reach our community, Brown County leaders are urging everyone aged six months and older, especially seniors, to get a flu shot as soon as possible.

“This year, it’s important to get the flu shot so as not to confuse flu symptoms with COVID symptoms, and to avoid getting both,” says Brown County Executive Troy Streckenbach. “At this incredibly difficult time for Wisconsin, it’s important that seniors and their loved ones do what they can to protect our most vulnerable population.”

Two scientific studies^{1,2} show that the flu plus COVID doubles the death rate.

“In recent years older adults have gotten flu shots at much higher rates than younger adults,” says Anna Destree, Brown County Public Health Officer. “However, given COVID-19, this year will be challenging. There may be fewer drop-in flu clinics, fewer volunteer drivers, greater fear of leaving home and catching COVID, in addition to ongoing misinformation out in the community.”

During the last flu season, adults aged 65 and older were only 17.5% of Wisconsin’s population, but accounted for 42% of flu-related hospitalizations and a whopping 84% of flu-related deaths.

“Compared to younger individuals, the consequences of older adults getting the flu range from more severe to deadly,” says Devon Christianson, Director of the Aging and Disability Resource Center of Brown County. “Older adults have much higher rates of chronic conditions, like diabetes, heart conditions and arthritis, all which add to flu complications. We need to all be good citizens and help our seniors protect themselves.”

Anyone who needs information about where flu shots are available in our community should call the Aging and Disability Resource Center at (920) 448-4300 or go to: <https://vaccinefinder.org>

¹ <https://www.bmj.com/content/370/bmj.m3720>

² <https://www.cdc.gov/mmwr/volumes/69/wr/mm6942e3.htm>