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## Press Release

COMMISSIONER'S OFFICE

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### **Fairbanks Public Health to hold vaccine clinics**

*Last chance at two free teen vaccines for the general public*

(Fairbanks, AK) — The Fairbanks Regional Public Health Center is offering special vaccines and vaccine clinics this month.

Protection without a shot until Dec. 23<sup>rd</sup>. — Flu Mist (a nasal spray, not a shot) immunizations are available free of charge for children ages 2 to 18 through Dec. 23 during normal walk-in hours, 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. weekdays except Wednesdays, at the Fairbanks Regional Public Health Center on the corner of Airport Way and Barnette St. Preservative-free flu vaccine is also available for children ages 6 months to 3 years. Flu shots will continue to be available after Dec. 23. Flu shots may be an alternative for some children with asthma or certain allergies.

Two teen vaccines will not be available for free to all after Dec. 31. — A teen shot clinic will be held on Dec. 30 from 4 to 6:30 p.m. to enable parents to bring in their teenagers for both the Meningitis and HPV vaccines, which are available free-of-charge through the Division of Public Health until Dec. 31. After that date, children must meet the Vaccines for Children criteria to get these two vaccines without charge.

The meningitis vaccine, Menactra®, is recommended for adolescents 11 through 18 years of age and is recommended and often required by colleges or the military. Only one shot is needed.

The HPV (Human Papilloma Virus) vaccine, Gardasil®, helps protect women against some types of cervical cancer. This three-shot series generally costs about \$150 per shot and is available for girls 9 to 18 years of age. Individuals who have not yet started the series could still get one dose at no charge before Dec. 31.

Parents must accompany children under age 18. Please bring immunization records. All immunizations are available from 8 a.m. – 4 p.m. Monday, Tuesday, Thursday, and Friday (not Wednesday). Please call the Fairbanks Regional Public Health Center at (907) 452-1776 for more information.

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