



MEDIA RELEASE

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Protect Yourself this Respiratory Illness Season

This is the first respiratory illness season in which COVID-19, RSV, and influenza vaccines are available. Protect your family from missed work and school and potentially severe illness by getting vaccinated.

COVID-19

COVID-19 can spread quickly; while most people have mild symptoms, some can become severely ill. On Monday, the Food and Drug Administration approved the updated COVID-19 vaccine. With COVID-19 cases and hospitalizations once again on the rise, everyone six months and older should get an updated COVID-19 vaccine. An updated COVID-19 vaccine can provide enhanced protection against the currently circulating variants.

COVID-19 vaccines are now covered by insurance, and with the end of the public health emergency, Pierce County Public Health (PCPH) will no longer offer these vaccines to the general public. PCPH will continue to provide the COVID-19 vaccine to uninsured and underinsured adults through the federal Bridge Access Program. Contact our office at 715-273-6755 for more information.

The updated COVID-19 vaccines are being distributed and will be available at local clinics and pharmacies in the next few weeks. To find a COVID-19 vaccine near you, visit <https://www.vaccines.gov/>.

Influenza

PCPH encourages individuals to contact their primary provider or a pharmacy for annual flu vaccines.

PCPH Walk-in Adult Influenza Clinics (Medicare, BadgerCare, and Self-pay only)

Adult influenza vaccines are \$35, and high-dose vaccines (recommended for ages 65+) are \$75.

Spring Valley Community Center Tuesday, October 17, 11 AM – 1 PM

Ellsworth Public Health Office Friday, October 20, 1:30 PM – 3:30 PM

Prescott Food Pantry Monday, October 30, 9 AM – 11 AM

Ellsworth Public Health Office Friday, November 3, 1:30 PM – 3:30 PM

If you are uninsured or underinsured, contact PCPH for appointment availability. PCPH will provide an opportunity for children at K-12 schools to be vaccinated during school clinics. Parents should watch for permission forms to be sent home with their children in the next couple of weeks.

TALK TO US

Phone: 715-273-6755

Fax: 715-273-6854

www.co.pierce.wi.us

VISIT US

412 W Kinne St
Ellsworth, WI 54011

OUR MISSION

To promote, protect and improve the lifelong health of individuals and communities in Pierce County through the effective use of data and evidence, community-driven prevention strategies, leadership, advocacy, partnerships, and the promotion of health equity.



Respiratory Syncytial Virus (RSV)

RSV usually causes mild, cold-like symptoms but can be serious for babies and older adults. Two RSV vaccines are now approved for people ages 60 years and older. PCPH does not offer these vaccines and encourages qualified individuals to talk to their healthcare provider to determine if one of these vaccines is appropriate for them. Public Health also recommends nirsevimab, a monoclonal antibody product, for infants younger than eight months who are born during - or entering - their first RSV season and some older babies.

END



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