



Public Health
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City of St. Joseph
Health Department

P R E S S R E L E A S E

City of St. Joseph Health Department
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HEALTH DEPARTMENT 2021 FREE FLU & PFIZER COVID-19 VACCINE CLINIC OCTOBER 12TH AT CIVIC ARENA

The City of St. Joseph Health Department will conduct its annual FREE VACCINE CLINIC, for the first time offering both influenza and COVID-19 vaccine on Tuesday, October 12, 2021. The clinic will be held at Civic Arena, 100 N. 4th Street, St Joseph, MO 64501. The clinic will begin at 9:00 a.m. and run until noon or while supplies last. Health officials at the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, Health and Human Services, and other medical researchers and organizations say there is now enough evidence and information from previous vaccine combinations to approve getting the flu and COVID-19 vaccines at the same time.

The City of St. Joseph Health Department vaccine is free to all participants. Those who have privately provided health insurance, Medicare or Missouri HealthNet are asked to present their card at clinic registration. No out-of-pocket expense will be charged by the St. Joseph Health Department for vaccine.

Patrons of the clinic will enter the Civic Arena using the lower-level entrances facing Felix Street. Parking is available on the streets surrounding the building and in public parking lots to the east and west. The entire clinic will be operated inside, there will be no drive-up option.

The City of St Joseph Health Department vaccine clinic will provide flu vaccine to those six months and over and COVID-19 vaccine to those aged 12 and older. Anyone under the age of 18 must have a parent or guardian present to read and sign the vaccine consent form. Only the Pfizer brand of COVID-19 vaccine will be at this clinic. It is available as a first, second, or booster dose.

The health department administers the quadrivalent flu vaccine which is designed to protect against four different flu viruses: two influenza A viruses and two influenza B viruses. This is not the high dose flu vaccine designed for persons 65 and older, nor is our vaccine egg-free.

Notes for those planning to attend the vaccine clinic at Civic Arena:

- The clinic is open to those who reside and/or work in Buchanan County.
- No appointment is needed, this is a walk-in clinic.
- Health department personnel working at the vaccine clinic will be wearing personal protective equipment to protect the public and the staff.
- Mask usage is highly recommended.
- Patrons are asked to wear a shirt that allows access to the shoulder area, where the vaccines are administered.
- The only brand of COVID-19 vaccine available at this clinic is Pfizer; therefore, only those who previously received Pfizer will be eligible for 2nd or booster doses. First and second doses doses must be spaced 21 days apart (previous shot not later than Sept 21); boosters must be 6 months apart (previous shot not later than April 12).
- Those seeking 2nd or booster COVID-19 doses are asked to bring the white CDC vaccine card they received with their first dose.
- Those receiving a vaccine against COVID-19 will be monitored for 15 minutes after receiving their shot.

Important information about the upcoming flu season:

- Flu vaccination will be very important to reduce flu and the overall impact of respiratory illnesses and lessen the resulting burden on the healthcare system during the continuing COVID-19 pandemic.
- CDC recommends a yearly flu vaccine as the first and most important step in protecting against flu viruses. Additional information can be found on the CDC website at [cdc.gov/flu/prevent/flushot](https://www.cdc.gov/flu/prevent/flushot).
- Vaccination of high-risk persons is especially important to decrease their risk of severe illness. People at high risk of serious flu and/or COVID-19 complications include young children, pregnant women, people who are morbidly obese, people with chronic health conditions like asthma, diabetes or heart and lung disease, people with a weakened immune system, and people 65 years and older.
- Vaccination is important for health care workers and others who live with or care for high-risk people to keep from spreading illness to those who are more vulnerable.
- Children younger than 6 months are at higher risk of serious flu illness but are too young to be vaccinated - people who care for them, and household contacts, should be vaccinated for their protection.
- Persons who should **not** receive a shot include those who: have ever had a severe allergic reaction to flu or COVID-19 vaccine; have recently had COVID-19 illness and received certain treatments to aid recovery (check with your medical provider); have a history of Guillain–Barré Syndrome; are sick with a fever when they go to get a shot (persons with fever should wait until they recover from their illness before getting the flu or COVID-19 vaccine).

For more information regarding either the flu vaccine or the COVID-19 vaccines, call the health department at 816-271-4725. No services will be provided at the Health Department, 904 S. 10th St., on the day of the vaccine clinic but will resume on Wednesday, October 13th.

This institution is an equal opportunity provider.

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