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## **For Immediate Release**

### ***MCHD to provide flu shots & COVID-19 testing at Mylan Park on Thursday***

**MORGANTOWN, WV (Nov. 9, 2020)** — Because of Veterans Day, Monongalia County Health Department’s weekly free COVID-19 testing will take place from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. Thursday, Nov. 12.

And because flu vaccines also will be offered to those who want them, the location has been moved for this weekly only to the 4-H Building at Mylan Park.

“Because we will be providing two services, we wanted to make sure to have plenty of room to accommodate everyone and also allow for social distancing,” said Jamie Moore, program manager for MCHD Threat Preparedness.

Those with health insurance should bring their insurance cards for the flu vaccines. Those without health insurance can get a free flu vaccine.

As usual, the community COVID-19 is free of charge to everyone. Individuals who want a COVID test need to bring an ID. Everyone should wear a mask.

Just about everyone 6 months and older are encouraged to get a flu vaccine each year. This includes individuals with conditions that could put them at higher risk for flu complications as well as pregnant women.

“And because of the COVID-19 pandemic, this is more important than ever,” said Jennifer Goldcamp, director of nursing for MCHD Clinical Services.

The flu vaccine takes about two weeks to become fully effective. Thursday is exactly two weeks before Thanksgiving, so individuals who plan to gather with family members for the holiday should definitely get a vaccine soon in order to be ready.

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Some influenza symptoms, such as fatigue and body aches, are similar to COVID-19 symptoms.

“You don’t want to start feeling sick and wonder if it’s flu or COVID,” Moore said. “Either way, you would be encouraged to quarantine and also maintain social distancing with other members of your household while you recover.”

Also, because of recent surges in COVID-19 cases, hospital capacity is lower than usual.

“We don’t want hospitals to become overwhelmed by people who have the flu,” Moore said.

For up-to-date information on health and wellness in Monongalia County, check out [monchd.org](http://monchd.org) and follow the health department on Facebook and Twitter @WVMCHD and on Instagram at #wvmchd. COVID-19 information can be found under the “Preparedness” tab.

**Note to media:**

Media will not be allowed into the testing site unaccompanied. Coordinating a visit also can save reporters and photographers time if they do not have to wait for MCHD to finish up with one media outlet before helping the next.

To set up a time to visit, please contact Mary Wade Burnside at [MaryWade.Burnside@wv.gov](mailto:MaryWade.Burnside@wv.gov) or at 304-598-5152.