

High-Dose Seasonal Influenza Vaccine for persons age 65 years and older, will be available at the Berrien Co. Health Dept. flu clinics for the 2014-2015 influenza season.

- Contains 4 times the amount of antigen that is in the traditional flu vaccine. Antigen is the part of the vaccine that prompts the body to make antibodies which are responsible for making an immune response in the person receiving the vaccine.
- Why? The immune defenses become weaker with age, which places older people at greater risk of severe illness from flu. A higher dose of antigen in the vaccine is designed to give older people a better immune response therefore better protection against the flu virus(s).
- The safety profile is similar to that of traditional flu vaccines. Adverse events most common: mild pain, redness, swelling at the injection site and headache, muscle aches, fever and malaise. Most people had no adverse events after receiving High-Dose vaccine.
- This is the 4th influenza season High-Dose vaccine has been available. Neither the CDC nor ACIP is expressing a preference of using traditional flu vaccine or the High-dose flu vaccine at this time.