



**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**  
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## **Fall-Themed Flu Clinic and Trunk-or-Treat Returns to the Health & Community Services Department**

KALAMAZOO, Mich. – The Kalamazoo County Health & Community Services Department invites the community to a [spooktacular event](#) combining the importance of public health with fall fun on Tuesday, Oct. 22 at its 311 E. Alcott Street location.

**Flu Clinic:** Scare away the influenza virus by [scheduling an appointment](#) to get vaccinated between 4-7 p.m. The first 30 appointments, available to anyone 6 months and older, will receive a free book bag from the Department’s Area Agency on Aging Division. Participants will also enjoy a donut and cider, courtesy of the Department’s Veterans Service Office. Furry friends from West Michigan Therapy Dogs will also be there, offering emotional support to those in need.

Please bring a photo ID and copy of insurance to the appointment, and consider completing this [online registration form](#) in advance. While most insurance plans cover the vaccine cost, no one will be turned away for an inability to pay. Minors under 18 should be accompanied by a parent or guardian.

**Trunk-or-Treat:** Once you’ve been vaccinated, treat yourself to something sweet in the north end of the parking lot where staff vehicles will hand out goodies and important program information. This year’s event will also feature [Scoop the Balloonatic](#), who will be conjuring up fall-themed balloon animals for participants, free of cost. Should the weather decide to play any tricks, these festivities will shift indoors for a “table-or-treat.”

**Pumpkin-Carving Contest:** Don’t forget to make your way to the Department’s third floor to vote for the best staff-carved pumpkin, each representing their respective program. Room 361 will transform into a fall wonderland, complete with spooky Halloween inflatables and festive décor.

“As the seasons change, so does our public health landscape, with viruses like influenza gaining momentum. However, flu clinics like this one can help residents stay ahead of those dangers,” Health Officer Jim Rutherford said. “Protecting yourself and others through vaccination is a safe and effective way to reduce illness, school or work absences, hospital stays, and death.”

Anyone can get the flu and experience symptoms like fever, body aches, cough, sore throat, and fatigue – including healthy children and adults. However, vaccination reduces the likelihood of suffering severe illness, hospitalization, or fatality, and prevents the virus from spreading, helping protect vulnerable populations.

In addition to getting vaccinated, people can take the following steps to prevent flu from spreading:

- Stay home and away from others when you are sick.
- Clean your hands often, with soap and water or hand sanitizer.
- Cover your mouth and nose with a tissue when coughing or sneezing.
- Avoid touching your eyes, nose, and mouth.

For those unable to attend, flu vaccinations are also available during walk-in hours: Monday through Thursday from 8 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. and 1 p.m. to 4:15 p.m., and Fridays from 8 a.m. to noon.

For more information about flu and other seasonal illnesses, or to find a vaccination location near you, please visit the [CDC website](#).

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