

NEWS RELEASE

For Immediate Release:

March 2, 2017

For More Information, Contact:

Molly Howell

Division of Disease Control

Phone: 701.328.2378

E-mail: mahowell@nd.gov

North Dakota Department of Health Piloting Adult Immunization Reminders in Three Counties

BISMARCK, ND – The North Dakota Department of Health (NDDoH) is piloting immunization reminder letters and postcards for adults age 60 years and older that are 30 or more days past due for recommended immunizations according to the North Dakota Immunization Information System (NDIIS). Reminder letters or postcards will be sent to residents in Grand Forks, Stutsman, and Morton counties on March 6, 2017, who are due for pneumococcal and shingles vaccines. Residents who receive reminders should ask about other vaccines they may be due for, including influenza and tetanus. The reminders will request individuals contact their primary health care provider, pharmacy or local public health unit to receive immunizations. “Immunizations are the best way to protect your health and prevent serious illness in our communities,” said Molly Howell, NDDoH Immunization Program Manager.

All adults 60 and older are recommended to receive a dose of the shingles vaccine, and adults 65 and older should receive two different types of pneumococcal vaccine. North Dakota’s adult shingles immunization rate is 35.6 percent. Immunization rates for the two pneumococcal vaccines are 41 percent and 44 percent. “This means less than half of our most vulnerable adults are not protected against serious diseases,” said Howell. “Each year in the United States, pneumococcal disease kills thousands of adults, including 18,000 people 65 years or older.”

Adults who do not wish to receive immunization recall postcards or letters should complete the Immunization Recall Exclusion Form located on the Immunization Program website www.ndhealth.gov/immunize.

For more information regarding adult immunizations in North Dakota, please contact the North Dakota Immunization Program at 701.328.3386 or 800.472.2180.

###

Please note: To access archived news releases and other information, visit the North Dakota Department of Health Press Room at www.health.nd.gov/news-media/news-releases. Find us on Facebook at www.facebook.com/ndhealth or Twitter at twitter.com/nddoh.