

Longmeadow Board of Health **PNEUMONIA VACCINATION CLINIC**

The Longmeadow Board of Health has scheduled two Pneumonia Vaccination Clinics open to Longmeadow residents age 18 years or older on Tuesday, September 14, 2010, 10-11:00A.M. and Thursday, Sept. 16, 2010, 4:30-5:30P.M. at the Nurse's Rm., Greenwood Adult Center, 231 Maple Road, Longmeadow.

Pneumonia infection is a significant risk for individuals who get the flu. Pneumonia infections secondary to flu infections can lead to serious and even life-threatening illness.

Immunization to prevent pneumonia infection is recommended for the following high risk groups:

1. Individuals over age 65
2. Individuals of any age
 - Who have chronic diseases of the heart, kidney, or pulmonary (respiratory) system, diabetics or other individuals who are immuno-suppressed.
 - Who smoke cigarettes
 - Individuals who have asthma

Kindly note, that unlike flu shots, **pneumonia shots provide long-term immunity. In general, the immunity provided by a pneumonia shot administered at or later than age 65 lasts for the remainder of one's lifetime.** If an individual received an initial pneumonia shot between ages 60-65, it is not necessary to be revaccinated until 5 years have elapsed from the first shot. For individuals who were under age 60 when they received their first pneumonia shot, the revaccination is not repeated until age 65. If there is no record of prior immunization for an individual within a high risk group, the recommendation is to vaccinate. However, the Board will attempt to check its pneumonia vaccination database or contact the primary care physician when immunization history is unknown.

This immunization is free for individuals who have Medicare Part B insurance. If you have Medicare Part B, kindly bring your Medicare Card and supplemental insurance cards to the clinic so that the Board of Health can submit for reimbursement for the administration for the vaccine. The charge for all other individuals is \$10.00.

Kindly call the Board of Health (565-4140) prior to September 9, 2010 to reserve a shot.