

Emergency Preparedness- Make Sure Your Family Members Are Currently Vaccinated

As part of being prepared for an emergency, everyone should have current vaccinations. Even pets should be currently vaccinated in case there is an evacuation and they need to be sheltered. If there is an evacuation or a shelter situation, being in close quarters means disease will spread.

Severe flu seasons can be devastating especially to those with compromised immune systems from chronic illnesses or disease treatments. Infants and the elderly are always at high risk. If the rest of the population receives vaccinations, it protects those who cannot receive the vaccine for medical reasons such as being too young to receive all vaccines, and some chronic medical conditions. The protection of the population from disease is called HERD IMMUNITY. The Hillsborough Health Department has given out almost 200 flu vaccines so far this year at clinics. There are several more clinics coming up in our area- even drive through clinics. Also, most pharmacies will give vaccinations as well. Don't wait until the supply of flu vaccine is gone!

The Hillsborough Health Department recommends that everyone check their vaccinations records. At the last meeting, with the emergency family medical information card, the health department recommended that a copy of the immunization records be stapled to the card. If there is a disease outbreak, you will be aware of your vaccination status. With some diseases, an outbreak situation may warrant a quarantine of those who are not currently vaccinated against that particular disease. Be aware and be ready.

Please see the Health Dept. website under "Get Ready for the Flu.." for information about VACCINE SAFETY and WHERE TO GET VACCINES AND 2018 FLU SHOTS.