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A BETTER WAY TO HOLIDAY: Get Vaccinated and Tested to Stop the Spread of COVID-19 and the Flu

OSHKOSH, WIS. (December 13, 2022) – As the holiday season approaches, the Winnebago County Health Department encourages people to take steps to protect their health and those around them. Getting vaccinated against COVID-19 and the flu is still the best way to minimize risk. Other ways to stop the spread of illness this holiday season include testing before you attend a gathering or if you feel sick and staying home if you don't feel well or were exposed to COVID-19.

"We are seeing high rates of COVID-19, flu and RSV in our area," said Doug Gieryn, Winnebago County Health Department director/health officer. "Staying up to date on your vaccines is one of the best things you can do to keep yourself and the community around you safe from severe illness. Vaccination and testing sites can be found throughout our area."

The Winnebago County Health Department offers the following COVID-19 vaccine clinics:

- Tuesdays, 3 to 5 p.m.
 - Fox Crossing Fire Department, 1326 Cold Spring Road, Neenah
- Walk-in Wednesdays, 3 to 6 p.m.
 - Sunnyview Expo Center, 500 E County Road Y, Oshkosh
 - Flu vaccination available
- Thursdays, 9 a.m. to 12 p.m.
 - Oshkosh Public Library, 106 Washington Ave, Oshkosh

If you are feeling sick or have been in contact with someone who is sick, getting tested for COVID-19 and the flu is recommended. Free COVID-19 testing is available at Sunnyview Expo Center (500 E County Road Y, Oshkosh), Monday through Friday, 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. Additional ways to test for COVID-19 include:

- Contact your doctor or pharmacy to ask if they provide testing.
- Visit www.winnebagopublichealth.org to find additional testing sites.
- Order free at-home test kits, delivered to your home, at sayyescovidhometest.org.
- Pick up a free at-home test kit one of our local partner locations. For a list of locations, visit www.winnebagopublichealth.org.

If you test positive for COVID-19, antiviral treatments are available to help prevent serious illness, hospitalization or death. Treatment needs to start within five days of symptoms starting and, even if symptoms are mild, it is essential that people with COVID-19 seek access to a prescribing clinician as soon as possible. The Wisconsin Department of Health Services offers free telehealth visits with a clinician seven days a week from 8 a.m. to 8 p.m., even on holidays. Appointments are available in multiple languages by video or telephone. If treatment is prescribed, it can be picked up at your local pharmacy or shipped overnight. Insurance is not required. For more information, please visit color.com/consults/antivirals.

For questions about COVID-19, contact the Winnebago County Health Department's COVID-19 hotline at 920-232-3026 or visit winnebagopublichealth.org.

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