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News Release

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:
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Seasonal Flu Vaccine Now Available for VA Black Hills Enrolled Veterans

The Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) Black Hills Health Care System will be offering seasonal flu vaccine clinics for enrolled Veterans at the following locations and times:

- Fort Meade VA Medical Center

Beginning October 7 on Friday's only from 7:30am-4:00pm Friday in Waiting Room #3 on a walk-in basis or during a regularly scheduled appointment with their Primary Care provider.

- Hot Springs VA Medical Center

Beginning October 3 from 9:00am–3:00pm Monday through Friday through Primary Care on a walk-in basis or during a regularly scheduled appointment with their provider.

- Rapid City VA Clinic

Flu Clinic will be held October 19 from 9:00am – 3:00pm at The Retired Enlisted Association (TREA) Bingo Hall at 1981 E. Centre Street in Rapid City OR AFTER October 19 by appointment. Please call the RC Clinic at 605-718-1095 Ext. 3051 to schedule an appointment.

VA Black Hills is also offering flu shots to enrolled veterans through its upcoming rural health clinics:

- Pine Ridge, SD Clinic – Veterans can receive their flu shots on the 2nd Tuesday or the 4th Monday of the month on a walk-in basis.
- Newcastle, WY Clinic – There is no clinic for the month of October, however patients are welcome to come to the Hot Springs VAMC for their flu vaccine. Starting in November Veterans may receive their flu vaccine on the 1st and 3rd Mondays of the month (unless the date falls on a Holiday)

VA Black Hills Veterans who receive their care through the:

- Linn Medical Clinic in Pierre or at Prairie Community Health Clinics in Isabel and Faith may receive vaccinations during regular business hours as a walk-in. Eagle Butte Clinic requests that Veterans call to schedule an appointment.

- Gordon Clinic will be offering a flu shot clinic on October 6 from 7:00am to 8:00am and on October 26 from 5:30pm-6:30pm. Vaccines will also be provided during regularly scheduled appointments with the Veteran's provider.
- Scottsbluff Clinic will provide flu shot clinics October 14 and October 19 from 7:30am-Noon and 1:00pm to 4:30pm. Will also provide vaccinations as walk-ins during regular business hours and at regularly scheduled appointments.
- Mission Clinic requests that Veterans call to schedule an appointment for the flu vaccine during regular business hours or may be received at a regularly scheduled appointment.
- Avera Medical Clinic in Winner will provide flu vaccinations Monday through Friday between 8:00am-Noon and 1:00pm-5:00pm. A courtesy call would be appreciated but walk-ins will be seen.

Veterans are advised to call prior to their vaccination to ensure vaccine is available. Please call 800-743-1070 or 800-764-5370, press #7 and listen to the recorded message which will provide you with the most current information on clinics and vaccine availability.

Veterans are asked to bring their VA identification card.

"It is important for Veterans to get their 2011 seasonal flu shot, especially those who might be pregnant, or have medical conditions such as asthma, chronic lung disease, heart disease, diabetes, or weakened immune systems." stated Dr. Craig Fischer, Acting Chief of Staff. "The flu season is with us. Don't let your guard down."

Flu vaccination is an important measure to protect you from the influenza virus. Also remember to wash your hands frequently, cover your cough and sneezes, and stay home and away from others if you are ill. For more information regarding the flu, contact the flu line at the number listed above or visit www.blackhills.va.gov.

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