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## **RivCo residents offered free flu shots as part of public health drill**

Riverside County health officials are urging the public to get vaccinated against influenza by taking part in a free flu shot clinic that is part of a public health exercise.

The free flu shot clinic is planned from 3 to 6 p.m. on Oct. 12 at the California School for the Deaf – Social Hall, located at 3044 Horace St., in Riverside.

"If a public health emergency strikes, we need to be ready, and vaccinations are one of the ways we can stop a future disaster in its tracks," said Dr. Cameron Kaiser, public health officer. "Drills like this help us test our system, and you get a free flu shot as part of it."

The drill is aimed at testing the readiness of health officials in the event of a pandemic. Health officials are working with students ages 3-18 from 23 school districts throughout the Riverside County.

The flu vaccine is recommended for everyone over the age of 6 months. Children younger than 3 should see their health care provider or visit one of the Riverside University Health System – Care Clinics.

While vaccination is key to avoiding influenza, additional prevention tips include staying home when ill, washing hands often and sneezing and coughing into your elbow and not your hand.

Nothing is required from people who wish to participate. Shots will be given out as they last.

For more information about the flu clinic, call Riverside University Health System -- Public Health Immunization Program at 888.246.1215 or visit [www.rivcoimm.org](http://www.rivcoimm.org).