



The Torch

The official newsletter for Indiana state employees

Seasonal flu vaccinations still important this fall

While we wait for the 2009 H1N1 flu vaccine to become available, we remind you to not forget about your seasonal flu vaccination.

The Indiana State Health Department says the seasonal flu vaccine will not provide protection against the 2009 H1N1 Influenza A, but reminds us it is still important to get the seasonal flu shot. About 36,000 people die from seasonal flu-related illnesses each year in the U.S. The seasonal flu vaccine is recommended for everyone over six months of age, unless they have been told otherwise by a healthcare provider.

Receipt of the seasonal flu vaccination is particularly important for young children, individuals with chronic diseases or compromised immune

Getting your flu shot

- State employees covered under the state’s High Deductible Health Plan (HDHP) can receive the shot at their physician’s office free-of-charge (preventive medicine is provided at 100 percent for those in the HDHP plans).
- State employees with the state’s Traditional 2 plan can receive the vaccination at their physician’s office for \$20.
- If one is planning to receive their flu shot at their doctor’s office, they should call to make sure the office has the vaccine.



systems and persons over age 65.

“Flu vaccine is safe and effective, and

prevents thousands of hospitalizations and deaths every year,” said State Health Commissioner Judy Monroe, M.D. “Influenza vaccines have been used for more than 60 years and have an established record of safety in all age groups.

“Now is the time to get a seasonal flu vaccination and to talk with your doctor about getting the 2009 H1N1 Influenza A vaccine when supplies are available.”

On September 16, the U.S. Food and Drug Administration announced it approved four vaccines against the 2009 H1N1 influenza virus. The vaccines will be distributed nationally after the initial lots become available, which is expected in mid-October.

At the office and at home, keep it clean

We all need to consider the possible implications to our health and responsibilities both at work and at home. First of all, remember to practice healthy actions such as hand washing/sanitizing, avoiding unnecessary close contact and staying home when sick.



meeting settings. Items and surfaces that are used by more than one employee should be regularly cleaned.

Accumulating and maintaining leave balances for emergencies is always a prudent practice, but is an especially responsible practice during flu season. Cross-training opportunities and reassignments of

Avoiding unnecessary close contact with others may include such things as assessing scheduled meetings and events to determine whether they can be conducted online or by teleconference or audio conference rather than in face-to-face

duties and/or work locations may become more common as agencies make adjustments to fill gaps created in essential services due to increased levels of absences.

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“Eventually, there should be enough vaccine available for all adults to get vaccinated against 2009 H1N1 flu, but when it first becomes available this fall, we are encouraging certain high-risk groups to get the vaccine first,” said Dr. Monroe.

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Submit your story ideas in an e-mail to: spdcommunications@spd.in.gov



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Financial tsunami blasts state revenues across the U.S.

In spite of budgets being passed and put into play throughout the country, many states are carving out portions from their budgets. This financial facelift will result in severe limits to services states can offer.

Governor Daniels, in a conversation with reporters acknowledged that our state “will have fewer dollars to work with in 2011 than we did in 2007.” He added “That says you cannot have the same government you had, unless you plan to go broke.”

Through the first two months of this fiscal year, Indiana’s revenues were \$88 million, or roughly five percent, below forecasted revenue. The revenue forecast will be updated again in December. Still, we Hoosiers are faring better than most of our fellow Americans.

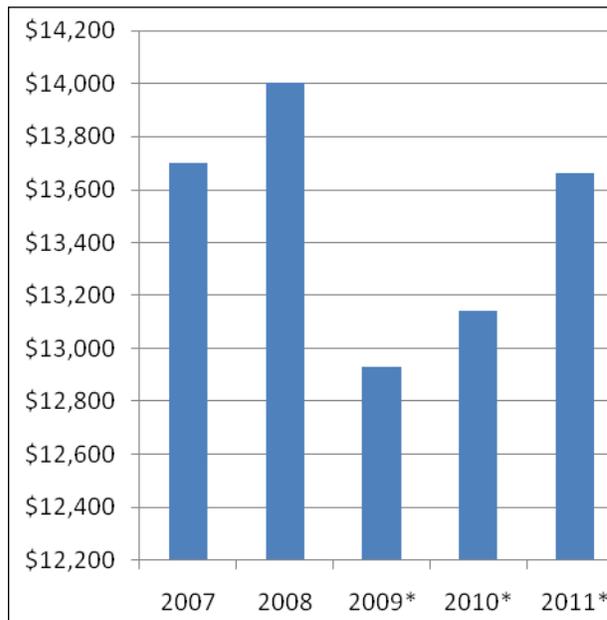
Nationwide, it is estimated that more than 800,000 state employees were affected by budget cuts in 2009.

Forty-one states have either reduced the number of state employees or cut their hours. Fifteen states have announced plans to lay off employees. The budgets of at least 20 states include furlough days for their employees. And eight states will do both layoffs and furloughs, according to the National Conference of State Legislatures.

These measures are the direct result of states scurrying to cover budget gaps that have ballooned to \$168 billion or 24 percent of their general fund budgets.

Twenty-four states have cut funding for public schools. Thirty-two states have reduced appropriations for colleges and universities and at least 14 states have

Indiana’s FY11 revenues are projected to be less than FY07 revenues



* Reflects May 2009 revenue forecast

raised taxes, according to the Center on Budget and Policy Priorities.

By the time you read this, **Arizona’s** KidsCare Parents program, which provides low income families with inexpensive insurance, will have ended. That means that 10,000 working parents in Arizona will lose health insurance coverage.

California continues to make the headlines. The latest is that the state’s prison budget will be cut, in a two-pronged effort to cut the budget and reduce overcrowding. Regardless, the budget will still be \$200 million in the red. Officials report this measure will drop the prison population by 20,000 to 25,000 over two years and it calls for reducing supervision of low-level offenders on parole so they could not be sent back for violating terms of their release. It would also permit some offenders to earn shorter terms by completing rehabilitation programs.

Alabama’s budget mirrors what’s going on with the budgets of so many other states. Cuts were made before

the budget was adopted. And now that revenue has not picked up, more cuts are projected. Alabama believes it will be forced to make additional cuts between 4.5 and 10 percent in its general fund budget.

Minnesota predicts its budget deficit in 2010 will be “twice as large as its previous financial shortfalls.” State officials see the problem compounding as baby boomers age and demand more public services.

Virginia’s human resources budget is looking at a 15 percent cut in its budget now that the new fiscal year is underway; this on top of a previous cut of 22 percent.

What is the real story?

A few state employees have asked why we continue to pass along information about the financial disarray of state budgets across the country. Some are concerned that there is a hidden message.

There is no hidden message. The message is pretty simple – like the old gray mare, state revenue, “she ain’t what it used to be.”

Income to our state continues to be lower than what was projected. As Gov. Daniels stated in an article he penned for the Wall Street Journal, “unlike the aftermath of past recessions, odds are that (state) revenues will take a long time to catch back up to their previous trend lines— if they ever do.”

When state revenue slows down, it makes sense that the state should rein in its spending. At the time the Daniels administration took office five years ago, the state was bankrupt. So spending practices were scrutinized and employees were challenged

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Long term employees honored for service

Each year Governor Daniels honors state employees for their long term service. Long-term employees are considered to be those with at least 35 years of service to the state of Indiana. The governor honored 374 employees, having served either 35, 40 or 45 years, for a total of 13,515 years of service to the state.

45 years of service

Dept. of Child Services: Alfred J. Fisher, Larry H. Miller. **Dept. of Revenue:** Thomas D. Lashbrook. **INDOT:** Willis L. Best, Bruno F. Canzian, Charles M. Lueth, Sr., Louis F. Mazely, Michael Pierce, Richard C. Shelton, John A. Siegel

40 years of service

Arts Commission: Bobbie J. Garver. **Bureau of Motor Vehicles:** Sandra K. Conn, Larry R. Farris. **Dept. of Child Services:** Marlene R. Hendrickson, Gloria Ann Maples, Lucy Mikula, Sharon Diane Persons, Marilyn Ruth Robinson, Jeanell Sheffield. **Dept. of Correction:** Gloria J. Marrs, Philip L. Slavens, Ronald R. Vail. **Dept. of Financial Institutions:** Jan L. Rilenge. **Dept. of Revenue:** Daniel E. Iwema, Brenda L. Stofer. **INDOT:** Gary L. Call, Roger Chastain, Raymond E. Cramer, Tom D. Crist, Denneth Stephen Eckard, Francis X. Ernst, Daniel Garpow, Richard Hargis, Kyle Donald Hawver, John K. Jackson, Craig Johnson, Thomas W. Klare, Hank Mayden, William E. Miller, Victor E. Moore, Thomas J. Rice, Lawrence Sayers, Joel E. Schmidt, James Sells, Ronald P. Siebert, Donald J. Stamper, Terry L. Sutcliffe, J. Stephen Taylor, Everett D. Walton, Rex P. White, Jr., David W. Wilkins, Stephen Zorger. **Dept. of Workforce Development:** Marilyn M. Knoy, Toby O. Monk. **FSSA:** Gregory C. Bell, Molly L. Green, Karen K. Finchum, Robert Alan Igney, Gregory S. Knowles, Janet C. Taff, Barbara A. Williams. **Law Enforcement Training Board:** Roberta E. Andrews, Richard M. Williams. **Office of Technology:** Anita S. Harris. **State Board of Accounts:** K. Stephen Illingworth. **State Board of Animal Health:** Austin C. Gray, Jr. **State Department of Health:** Thomas Franklin Robinson. **State Police:** Paul R. Fotia, Richard L. Hammer, Fred C. Pryor, Jr. **Supreme Court:** Robert R. Brown, Terry D. Dietsch, Vincent F. Grogg, Charles Keith McCrory. **Worker's Compensation Board:** Karen L. Longère

To see the names of the 35-year employees, visit www.in.gov/spd/2513.htm

Stop smoking resources available to Hoosier pregnant women

Hoosier pregnant woman have free resources available to help them quit smoking and deliver healthy babies.

“For so many women, the difference in making the decision to quit smoking comes down to knowing someone is there to listen and provide an understanding for what they’re going through,” said Karla Sneegas, executive director, Indiana Tobacco Prevention and Cessation Agency (ITPC).

The free Indiana Tobacco Quitline – 1-800-QUIT-NOW (784-8669) – is available from 7 a.m. until 3 a.m., seven days a week to assist any Hoosier 18 years or older with advice and counseling on quitting tobacco. The Quitline is staffed by highly trained coaches who assist smokers with their plans to stop smoking.

For women who are pregnant, there is a specially designed program aimed at addressing the needs of both the expectant mother and the baby. Included is a series of up to 10 phone calls completed with the mother both during and after the pregnancy is completed.

Quit coaches are specifically empathetic to the mother’s needs and they help make sure they have the right support network as part of the treatment services.

A report by the Prenatal Substance Abuse Commission indicated that an estimated 20 percent of women used tobacco



while pregnant; ranking Indiana seventh highest among all 50 states. The report estimated that, in 2007 dollars, the average newborn cost of a delivering a pre-term baby is as much

as \$60,000.

To register to become a preferred health care provider visit the Web site – www.indianatobaccoquitline.net



Gov. Daniels in Asia



Governor Daniels and Zhejiang Foreign Affairs Department Deputy Director General Peng Bo at the 'Spirit of Man' sculpture on the Foreign Affairs Department grounds. The sculpture was a gift given to the Province by late Governor Frank O'Bannon in honor of the 10th anniversary of the sister-state relationship.

Open Enrollment 2010

Make sure your dependents are eligible

We're coming up to Open Enrollment time, so now is a good time to look at your health coverage and identify any changes in regards to dependents. Qualified dependents of eligible state employees may be covered under the state's benefit plan. Just be sure that those listed on your plan are qualified.



If you have dependents listed on your plan and they are not eligible, you could be subject to discipline. To avoid that, make sure that anyone listed on your health care policy is eligible for that coverage. According to the state's benefit plans, here are the definitions of dependents:

Spouse: One's wife or husband. An ex-spouse is not eligible for coverage, even if court ordered.

Children: Unmarried dependent natural children, stepchildren, foster and/or legally adopted children, who reside in the employee's home for whom the employee or spouse has been appointed legal guardian.

Age limitation: Dependent children are eligible for coverage through the end of the calendar year of their 19th birthday.

- If the dependent child is a full-time student enrolled in an educational institution, the dependent child may be covered until the end of the calendar year of their 23rd birthday.
- If the dependent child is both incapable of self-sustaining employment by reason of mental or physical disability and is chiefly dependent upon the employee for support and maintenance:
 - Prior to age 19, the dependent child's coverage shall continue if satisfactory evidence of such disability and dependency is received within 120 days after the end of the calendar year in which the maximum age is attained. Coverage for the dependent will continue until the employee discontinues his coverage or the disability no longer exists.
 - After age 19, a dependent child of the employee who attained age 19 while covered under another health care policy and met the disability criteria specified above, is an eligible dependent for enrollment so long as no break in coverage for longer than 63 days has occurred immediately prior to enrollment. Proof of disability and prior coverage will be required. The plan requires annual documentation from a physician after the child's attainment of the limiting age.

Adult relatives: Even in situations where the employee possesses a court order or legal guardianship, adult relatives do not qualify as dependents and are not eligible for benefits through the state of Indiana, except as dependents under the Dependent Care Spending Account.

For more information about dependent eligibility, your responsibilities at notifying the state of the changes and the penalties for failure to do so, check out pages 4 and 5 of the Employee Benefits Handbook.



Download the Employee Benefits Handbook:
www.in.gov/spd/files/employee_handbook.pdf

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At the office and at home, keep it clean

Please keep informed about specific flu conditions, contagion/infection cycles or time frames, vaccine schedules/availability and other recommendations for this flu season by accessing the Indiana State Department of Health's Web site at www.in.gov/isdh as well as following related stories in the news media.

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What is the real story?

to make a leaner, more efficient government.

Hard choices were made along the way, but as a result, our per capita state spending has been cut an average of 1.4 percent each of the past five years. Now more than ever, we must critically review our spending practices in light of our revenues.

Reading about the financial tightropes of the budgets of other states gives us an opportunity to learn from their experiences. Things like,

- Don't put off difficult decisions by draining the rainy day fund.
- Don't consider federal dollars as a permanent fix to a budget circling the drain.
- And whatever you do, don't keep spending like there's no tomorrow. Do that and there won't be.



Original artwork by
Jerry Williams

Classifieds

Please respect the following rules when submitting items:

- Ads are limited to state employees only.
- Contact information must include either a phone number with area code (home or cell, no state numbers) or a home e-mail address.
- Submit ads via e-mail to spdcommunications@spd.in.gov, information must be included in the body of the e-mail, no photos or attachments. No bold or italic type, no ALL CAPS.
- Limit one ad per employee per issue; each ad has a limit of three items.
- Deadline is the 10th of the month prior to the next issue.
- No weapons, no animals, no food items, no carpooling. All requests for drivers/riders should contact the Central Indiana Commuter Services at www.centralincommuter.net
- No real estate, for sale or rent, including mobile homes, manufactured housing, timeshares, etc.
- No Avon, Mary Kay, vitamins, etc.
- No memberships, businesses or professional services (i.e., tax preparation, car repair, etc.).
- Ads will run for one issue only.
- State Personnel Department staff reserves the right to edit and/or refuse any ads.

Round wicker fan back chair; vanity size, painted, white background cushion & lavender Daylily print. \$15. Large picture of pink irises; Home Interior, gold frame. \$35. Pick up Seymour or Scottsburg. Call 812-521-8880.

Antique oak step back cabinet; hutch style, 6x4, excellent shape; \$300 obo. Call 574-870-3100.

Puppy Grows & Knows Your Name game; Dalmation, dog bone, cables & CD, excellent condition. \$40. Call Jackee, 317-691-8913.

1994 Buick LeSabre; runs & drives great, 26-28 mpg, maintenance records, new tires, 157K mi. \$1,500 obo. 14-ft jon boat; 2 swivel seats, trailer, 15 HP Mariner motor, nice. \$1,600. 2 - 21x46" skylights. \$30 for

both. Call Rick, 765-653-9544.

14" polyester tire on 5 lug rim; excellent shape. \$25. Pick up Seymour or Scottsburg. Call 812-521-8880.

21' round Jacuzzi pool; Hayward S180T sand filter still in box, 1.5 HP Hayward pump, ladder, 24' solar and winter covers w/ small tears, original paperwork & assembly instructions; buyer takes down. \$1,000 obo. Located in NW IN. Call Lisa, 219-613-0864 after 5 p.m (CST).

1987 Toyota Camry; 5 sp, original owner, 39+ mpg hwy, new alternator, oil change & exhaust work, 179K mi. \$1,495 neg. Call 317-251-7924 or ukrboy@hotmail.com

2004 Harley-Davidson 1200 custom; chromed out controls, windshield, custom touring seat & passenger backrest; Stage one kit, jetted, tuned, screaming eagle breather & pipes; all Harley parts & installation, 4600 mi. \$6,000. Call 765-795-6224.

Diamond tennis bracelet; 2 ctw, \$1,100. Diamond anniversary ring; \$850. Sapphire & diamond ring; \$750. Call Sandy, 812-249-1498 or sandy_leigh@verizon.net.

5x7 painting; cat looking @ rabbit, \$7.50. 5x7 painting; bird w/ flowers, \$8.75. Wanted: men's L Mickey Mouse tee; fanny-pack, prefer camouflage. Contact prettywideshoes@gmail.com



Hoosier S.T.A.R.T. and Tim Berry, State Auditor, cordially invite you and your peers to the second annual complimentary evening of education and entertainment.

What: Dinner and a retirement seminar

Who: Public employees who participate in the Hoosier S.T.A.R.T. 457 should plan to attend this informative session featuring Barbara Stanny, author of the book "Overcoming Underearning," and Dee Lee, author of "Money: Your Personal Finance Guide."

Main Event:

Oct. 14 at Indianapolis Marriott Downtown

Other events around the state:

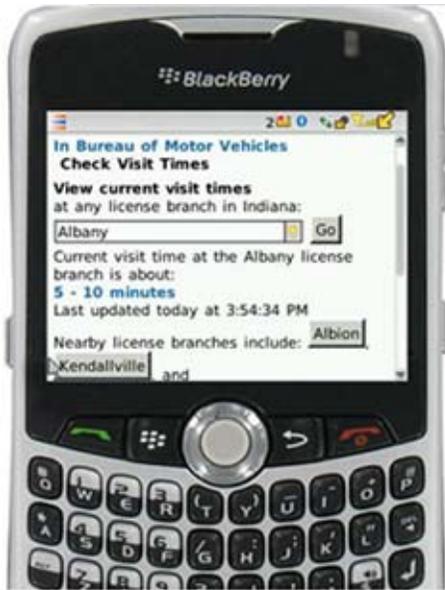
Oct. 28 at Casa! Ristorante, Fort Wayne
Oct. 29 at Radisson Star Plaza, Merrillville
Nov. 4 at Acropolis, Evansville
Nov. 5 at Wooded Glen Retreat, Henryville

Space is limited. Sign up online via link posted at www.in.gov/spd.

If you have any questions or need help registering, please contact Mischon Dahlstrom at (317) 805-6600, extension 213, or e-mail Mischon.dahlstrom@vmsbiomarketing.com.



Around the state



Through mobile.IN.gov you can plan your visit to any license branch.

State Web sites go mobile

Mobile devices are now equipped with a Find An Agency feature that allows users to search by either category or alphabetical listing. There are more than 75 state agencies that have a mobile Web site available via this feature. The agencies that have a mobile Web site available icon next to them have a customized mobile site.

Some other things available via your mobile device include license branch times, check lottery numbers and view Amber and Silver alerts.

Hoosier heroes to be honored at state museum

Honor Indiana's veterans and active military personnel this fall at the Indiana State Museum. Heroes from the Heartland will run from Nov. 1 through Veterans Day, Nov. 11.



Hoosiers are invited to submit photos of their friends and family who have served or are currently serving in any branch of the military. The first 300 photos received will be printed and posted on a photo mural at the museum.

INDOT maps at no cost

Looking to find your way around Indiana this fall? Before you go, get the new Indiana state map. You can request a map for free from the INDOT homepage at www.in.gov/indot

National Guardsmen break ground on monument

Three current and former employees were on hand in September to break ground on the War Memorial Monument in Lebanon. **John Osborn** (Department of Natural Resources), **Ray Bahney** (Adjutant General's Office) and retired Adj. General **George Buskirk** participated in the event at Lebanon Memorial Park. The new monument will honor all Boone County veterans who have served in the U.S. military.

Get a discount at a fitness center near you

Looking to avoid hibernation this winter? Join a gym or fitness center in your area. We'll help you get started. On the State Personnel Web site, numerous discounts to fitness centers statewide are listed.

Check out the deals online at www.in.gov/spd/2439.htm.

Photos will also be viewable electronically through the Indiana State Museum's Facebook and Flickr pages.

E-mail photos to Kerry Baugh at kbaugh@dnr.in.gov and include the following information:

- Name
- Date of service
- Division of military
- Hometown
- Submitted by

Photos should be between 150 and 300 dpi at 100 percent.

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Seasonal flu vaccinations still important

Dr. Monroe says these targeted high-risk groups for H1N1 include the following:

- Pregnant women
- People who live with or care for children six months of age or younger
- All people six months to 24 years of age
- Health care workers and emergency medical services personnel
- People 25 to 64 years of age with health conditions that make them have a higher risk of medical complications from influenza

These at-risk groups are also encouraged to get the seasonal flu vaccine as soon as it is offered to them locally. They should not wait until the 2009 H1N1 Influenza A vaccine is available.

For more information about H1N1 flu, including updates on the availability of the vaccine, visit: www.in.gov/flu and cdc.gov/h1n1flu

Health officials continue to recommend taking these everyday steps to protect your health:

- Clean - properly wash your hands frequently.
- Cover - cover your mouth when you sneeze.
- Contain - contain your germs by staying home when you are sick.

Explore employee discounts

Be the first to know

Sign up to receive e-mail alerts for new state employee discounts. Visit www.in.gov/spd/2439.htm and click the button "Subscribe for e-mail updates" at the top of the page.