



**ST. JOSEPH COUNTY**  
DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH  
Prevent. Promote. Protect.

## St. Joseph County Department of Health

*"Promoting physical and mental health and facilitating the prevention of disease, injury and disability for all St. Joseph County residents"*

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**  
**December 14, 2022**

**CONTACT: Jenny Parcell**  
**(574) 235-9573**

### **Public Health Officials Urge Flu and COVID-19 Vaccines as Respiratory Infections Rise**

As the holidays are upon us, St. Joseph County public health officials are urging residents to be protected against flu and COVID-19 as cases increase locally. The updated bivalent COVID-19 vaccine is now available for children 6 months to 4 years old at the St. Joseph County Department of Health allowing anyone 6 months and older to be vaccinated. This year's flu vaccine is also available for anyone 6 months and older.

The COVID-19 vaccine clinic, located on the 9<sup>th</sup> floor of the County City Building, 227 W. Jefferson Blvd., South Bend, is open on *Tuesdays and Thursdays, 8:30 a.m. – 3:00 p.m.* and *Saturdays, 8:30-11:00 a.m.* Flu vaccine is available *Monday-Friday, 8:00 a.m.- 12:00 p.m. and 1:00 p.m.-4:00 p.m.* at our South Bend location (227 W. Jefferson Blvd, 9<sup>th</sup> floor, South Bend) and *Monday-Thursday, 8:00 a.m.- 12:00 p.m. and 1:00 pm-4:00 p.m.* at the Mishawaka location (219 Lincolnway W, Mishawaka).

Children ages 6 months to 4 years will receive the updated COVID-19 bivalent vaccine as the 3<sup>rd</sup> dose to complete the primary series. Children in this age range who have completed the full 3-dose primary series are NOT eligible for a bivalent booster dose.

The updated bivalent vaccine provides protection against the original strain of SARS-CoV-2 as well as the Omicron BA.4 and BA.5 subvariants and related subvariants that are responsible for over 90% of current COVID-19 infections. The updated vaccine helps restore waning immunity since previous vaccination and provides broader protection against newer variants. This year's flu vaccine is showing to be a good match for the flu virus that is currently circulating.

Staying home when not feeling well and getting vaccinated against both COVID-19 and flu are the best ways to protect yourself and loved ones from severe illness.

For more information on both the updated COVID-19 bivalent vaccine and flu vaccine, please visit the Centers for Disease Control & Prevention at [www.cdc.gov](http://www.cdc.gov).

###

227 W. Jefferson Blvd. | 8th Fl. | South Bend, IN 46601  
P: (574) 235-9750 | F: (574) 235-9960  
[www.sjindiana.com/health](http://www.sjindiana.com/health)



@stjosephcountyhealth



@sjchealth