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**NEWS
RELEASE**

12/ 16/ 2024

Public Health Officials Report First Flu-Related Death of the Season

EL PASO, Texas—The City of El Paso Department of Public Health (DPH) has confirmed the first flu-related death of the respiratory season in El Paso. The case involves a female under the age of 13 with underlying health conditions.

“We are deeply saddened to report the tragic loss of a child in our community. Our heartfelt condolences go out to the family during this difficult time,” said City-County Local Health Authority Dr. Hector Ocaranza. “The best protection against the flu and its serious complications is vaccination. We strongly urge everyone aged 6 months and older to get their flu shot to protect themselves and those around them.”

Influenza (commonly known as flu) is a highly contagious respiratory illness caused by influenza viruses that infect the nose throat and lungs and can result in serious complications such as pneumonia, bacterial infections and even death.

Each year, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) reports thousands of hospitalizations due to influenza complications. High-risk groups include:

- Seniors 65 and older
- Pregnant women
- Young children
- People with chronic health conditions

In 2023, the City reported 722 flu cases from October through December, a significant increase compared to 280 cases during the same period in 2022. The seasonal flu is caused by two main types of influenza viruses, A and B, both of which contribute to annual flu epidemics.

Free Flu Vaccines Available

DPH offers FREE flu vaccines to the community on a walk-in basis, Monday through Friday, from 7:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. (closed for lunch from 12 to 1 p.m.). Vaccines are available at the following City clinics:

- Ysleta Community Clinic: 110 Candelaria St.
- Henderson Community Clinic: 721 S. Mesa St.
- Northeast Community Clinic: 9566 Railroad Dr.
- Westside Community Clinic: 7380 Remcon Cir.

Appointments can also be scheduled by calling (915) 212-6555.

For more information about flu vaccines and prevention, visit [BePowerFlu.com](https://www.bePowerFlu.com) or [EPHealth.com](https://www.ePHealth.com).

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Promoting **Transparent & Consistent Communication**
Among All Members of the Community

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