



MEDIA ALERT

Flu Shots Available at the Fresno Center to Help Households Avoid a Flu Crisis this Holiday Season “TFC FREE FLU SHOTS”

During unprecedented times of need, Anthem Blue Cross joined The Fresno Center to offer access to no-cost flu shots that can help keep households healthy during the holidays and through the pandemic.

WHEN: Dec. 4th 1pm – 5pm

WHERE: The Fresno Center, 4879 E. Kings Canyon Rd. Fresno, CA. 93727

Google Maps: <https://goo.gl/maps/19FduPuiqGbX8hoJ6>

WHAT: This event will provide flu shots to anyone 3 years of age or older. Health insurance is not required, but participants are being asked to bring insurance ID cards and photo IDs if they have them. For safety and efficiency, guests are being asked to follow drive-thru signs and stay in their vehicles for vaccinations. A pre-registration site is available to speed up the vaccination process, but no one will be turned away if they are not pre-registered. For more information and to pre-register, visit: <https://blog-ca.anthem.com/low-income-health-care/no-cost-flu-shots>.

WHY: In a few weeks, the Holiday Season has kicked off with gatherings, shopping and increased contact with others. It takes approximately two weeks to build antibodies and flu immunity after receiving the flu vaccine, so Amerigroup is helping individuals and families get vaccinated now – and to possibly prevent San Antonio from experiencing a flu crisis.

According to the [CDC's Influenza Surveillance Report](#), it is very likely that both flu and COVID-19 will spread rapidly this fall and winter as holiday gatherings take place and people spend more time indoors. Two highly contagious and dangerous viruses spreading at once could devastate families, communities, and the healthcare system. The flu alone causes between [9 – 45 million illnesses, 140,000 – 810,000 hospitalizations and 12,000 – 61,000 deaths each year](#). While there is no vaccine, to protect from COVID-19, there is a flu vaccine that can reduce the risk of flu illness by 40 – 60 percent. It is not only a precaution that healthy individuals should take for themselves, but also for vulnerable people around them. This includes infants whose immune systems haven't yet developed and are too young to be vaccinated, as well as people who are over the age of 65, who often experience changes in their immune defense, which puts them at greater risk of developing serious complications from flu. It also includes people with chronic health conditions, such as asthma, heart disease, diabetes, and chronic kidney disease, who may have a harder time fighting flu and are more prone to developing serious or life-threatening complications. Black and Latino communities should also be more diligent about vaccinations because they are impacted by the flu at higher rates.

“There are many reasons for this disparity, including lower vaccination rates, living in multigenerational households, being in close contact with each other and sharing common spaces where viruses spread rapidly. Between the ongoing pandemic and the start of flu season, Fresno is facing unprecedented challenges this fall and winter, but thanks to Anthem's support for drive-thru flu clinic, area residents are empowered to take control of their health and keep themselves, their families and those around them safe, says Pao Yang, President/CEO, The Fresno Center.”

MEDIA INTERVIEW AND PHOTO/VIDEO OPPORTUNITIES:

Media representatives are invited to come out to The Fresno Center during the flu shot clinics to capture footage/information that can be shared with audiences and raise awareness about critical community resources. Upon request, The Fresno Center and Anthem will facilitate interviews and answer questions. There will also be the opportunity to speak to guests as they arrive for vaccinations with consent provided. Social distancing and safety precautions will be observed. For more information about times and locations of flu clinics, please visit:

<https://blog.myamerigroup.com/low-income-health-care/no-cost-flu-shots>.

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About The Fresno Center: 501C3 non-profit organization

Founded in 1991, the mission of The Fresno Center is to assist individuals in becoming self-sufficient, self-fulfilled, and productive members of the community while fostering cultural preservation and promoting cross-cultural understanding. It has a long-standing history of providing traditional and culturally competent, and linguistic services to the growing needs of underserved and unserved, low-income residents in Fresno County.

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