



Center for  
**Family Health**

# CenterPiece

OCTOBER 2020

COMMUNITY NEWSLETTER

## Get your flu shot now!

### CFH SERVICES



“We are hoping to vaccinate many more people this year, because now we are dealing with two viruses that can be deadly.”

**Dr. Rose Johnson**  
Chief Medical Officer at the Center for Family Health

Flu season is here, and this year it is more important than ever to protect your family and our community by getting a flu shot.

The vaccine is now available at two Center for Family Health locations, the Downtown Facility at 505 N. Jackson Street and the Northwest Community Health Center at 6700 Rives Junction Road. **No appointment is necessary.**

“We are hoping to vaccinate many more people this year,” said Dr. Rose Johnson, Chief Medical Officer at the Center for Family Health. “Because now we are dealing with two viruses that can be deadly.”

As the COVID-19 pandemic continues, public health officials have set the ambitious goal of increasing the number of flu vaccinations in Michigan by 33 percent this flu season. To reach that goal, 1 million more Michigan residents must receive flu shots this year.

“Preventing the flu will help us save lives and preserve the health-care resources we need to continue fighting COVID-19,” said Gov. Gretchen Whitmer, who received her own flu shot in public at a news conference in August. “Every flu-related hospitalization we see this



season will put an additional strain on Michigan’s economy and our health-care systems and hospitals.”

Preliminary data from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention show the nation had up to 56 million flu illnesses in the 2019-20 flu season, and at least 18 million medical visits, 410,000 hospitalizations, and 24,000 deaths. Children, the elderly, and people with chronic health conditions are at the highest risk.

Flu shots are recommended for everyone aged 6 months and older, and they’re the most effective way for individuals to prevent the flu or minimize its symptoms. If enough people are vaccinated, outbreaks are prevented by establishing “herd immunity.”

**Preventing the flu is important not only to minimize strain on the health-care system, but also because people who get the flu will be at higher risk for COVID-19, Dr. Johnson said.**

An ample national supply of the flu vaccine is expected this year, she said. ■

The Center for Family Health is an independent, federally qualified health center that never turns patients away because of inability to pay. It provides comprehensive, quality medical care, dental services and behavioral-health assistance to more than 30,000 patients at its main location in Jackson, a dental center, and four school health centers.

Opening the door to  
**HEALTH CARE** for all



# Did you know?

## THESE HEALTH FACTS

We have given **2,282 shots** so far since late September. *Be safe and get your shot today.*



### Convenient:

- Offered at 505 N Jackson Street location or Northwest Health Center.
- Curbside flu shots offered at downtown location as well.
- No appointment needed.

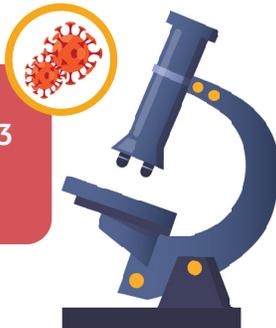


## COVID-19 Testing Update

We have given **8,468 tests** since April 6, 2020.

We have a **3.8% positivity rate.**

Call us at **517-748-5363** if you need to be tested.



## MEET DENISE PROVENCHER, PHYSICIAN ASSISTANT



- Denise Provencher worked as a physician assistant in Lenawee and Washtenaw counties for more than a decade before becoming the medical provider at CFH's Northwest Community Health Center in 2014.
- "The first thing that attracted me was working with students," Denise said. "I really enjoy working with the kids."
- Denise worked in a medical lab for about 11 years before making a mid-life career change to become a physician assistant, a decision based in part on her desire to have more patient contact.

- "I am very much a people person, and in the lab you have direct contact only when you're drawing blood," Denise said.
- After earning a master's in physician assistant studies from the University of Detroit Mercy, Denise worked in primary care and at a pain practice before joining the Center for Family Health.

**"Here at the schools, it's a very unique experience. I enjoy educating the kids about their health and easing their fears."**

## News in Brief

### Complete the 2020 Census NOW

Remember, if you have not already completed the Census, it's as easy as 1, 2, 3. Complete the Census at [my2020census.gov](https://my2020census.gov)

You can inspire others. Tell everyone – your friends and family, neighbors and

co-workers – that you will complete the census, and that they should respond now, too! The target date for completing the Census is October 31, 2020.

Census results have an impact on planning and funding for health clinics and highways, fire departments and disaster response, education programs, such as Head Start and college tuition assistance, and so much more. ■

### Contact your federal representatives!

Congress is drafting a Continuing Resolution (CR) to fund the government through mid-December. There were two health-care programs that were set to expire Sept. 30: higher payments to the states for Children's Health Insurance Program costs and Medicare funding for small practices in rural and underserved areas. The CR could potentially include the Community Health Center Fund, the

National Health Service Corps, and the Teaching Health Centers Graduate Medical Education Program as the funding for these programs is set to expire on Nov. 30.

**Please call your U.S. senators and your congressman!** We need to remind U.S. Sen. Debbie Stabenow (202-224-4822), U.S. Sen. Gary Peters (202-224-6221) and U.S. Rep. Tim Walberg (202-225-6276) of the important role that health centers play in keeping Americans healthy! ■