



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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**Primary Health Medical Group administering adult immunizations as
Central District Health discontinues service**

Private, local company fills the gap and protects the community as health district exits business.

Boise, March 17, 2009 – Primary Health Medical Group is now the only walk-in resource for Adult Immunizations in the Central District Health Department (CDHD) service area - serving Valley, Elmore, Boise and Ada Counties - a program discontinued by CDHD on March 1, 2009. Twelve different Adult immunizations including Hepatitis A & B, Tetanus Vaccine, MMR and more (see associated fact sheet for specific immunizations involved), Tuberculosis testing, and specific Titers (screenings for antibodies in the blood) will all be available at the Wellness Clinic location. The Wellness Clinic is located at 801 N. Stilson Road, Boise (on Veteran's Parkway). Adult Immunizations can now be accessed during convenient, extended hours (evenings and Saturdays) and patients can receive assistance with billing of insurance.

“We are pleased to be the only location in the CDHD service area that provides these Adult Immunizations without an appointment, on a walk-in basis,” said Monica Cavazos, RN, Director of Nursing for Primary Health Medical Group. “When we learned of the discontinuation of the Adult Immunization program at CDHD, we contacted our partners at that organization to determine how we might fill the void – to ensure our community continued to have the appropriate disease prevention measures available to them.”

The change in the Adult Immunization program at CDHD is a direct result of the budget hold-backs of the current fiscal year and the anticipated budget reductions in the upcoming fiscal year beginning July 1st. “We are pleased that Primary Health Medical Group has been able to step in and pick up Adult Immunization Services,” said Russell Duke, Director of CDHD. “This is exactly the sort of community outcome we had hoped for when we decided to discontinue Adult Immunization at the health department.”

“Because we already have the infrastructure in place through our Urgent Care setting, we can manage the process with our existing workflow – while absorbing associated costs. We will be able to administer the Adult Immunizations with the same type of professional, quality clinical staff that the CDHD utilized,” stated Monica Cavazos. Primary Health Medical has a long history of providing immunizations in the state of Idaho, administering over 33,000 immunizations in 2008 alone. “We are expanding our commitment to help keep our community healthy by adding these Adult Immunizations.”

“This is another example of how Primary Health Medical Group, a private, Idaho-based company, is taking action to help solve the Health Care Crisis in the United States,” said David Peterman, MD, President of Primary Health Medical Group. “We are stepping in to provide a service - without government subsidy - that Central District Health can no longer provide.”

According to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, Adult Immunizations are needed for a variety of reasons. Some adults incorrectly assume that the vaccines they received as children will protect them for the rest of their lives. Generally this is true, except that some adults were never vaccinated as children; newer vaccines were not available when some adults were children; immunity can begin to fade over time; and as individuals age, they become more susceptible to serious disease caused by common infections (e.g., flu, pneumococcus). The largest populations needing Adult Immunizations in the Treasure Valley are students, health care providers, and employees of certain industries (e.g. food handlers, day care providers). Additionally, those who have just had a significant health experience (such as having a baby or planning a pregnancy) may be candidates. Conversations with individual primary care providers/family doctors will help individuals learn if they are an appropriate candidate for Adult Immunizations.

Payment for Adult Immunization services must be made in full at time of service. However, Primary Health Medical Group will bill insurance on your behalf and any payment will be refunded to the patient. Individuals who have questions about the immunization process can contact the Primary Health Medical Group Wellness Center at 208-344-7799.

Boise-based Primary Health Medical Group is a multi-specialty medical group that was created by physicians who have practiced in Idaho for more than twenty years. The group sees over 200,000 patient visits a year through multiple clinics located in Boise, Meridian, Eagle, Nampa, and Caldwell. The majority of the clinics offer appointment family practice and urgent care services and are staffed by family practitioners, physician assistants and nurse practitioners. The group also has physicians in pediatrics, obstetrics and gynecology, dermatology, occupational medicine, and ear, nose, and throat. Learn more about Primary Health Medical Group at www.phmgidaho.com.