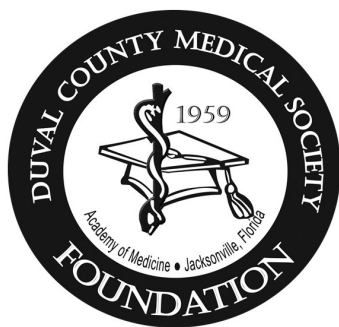
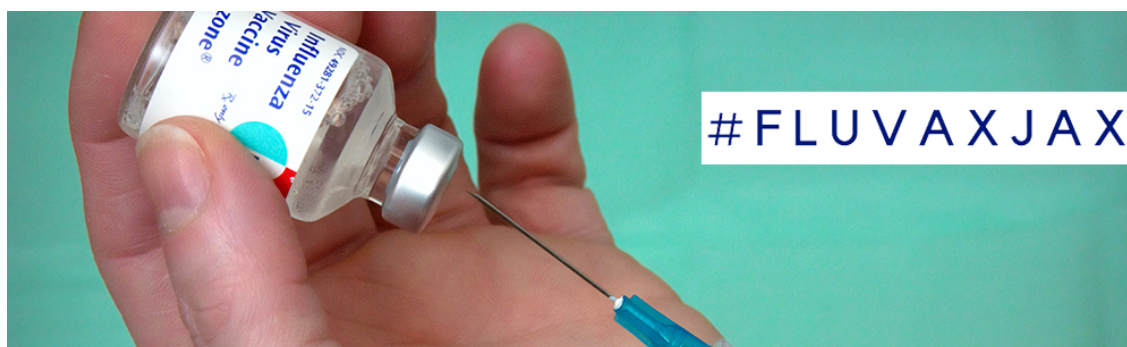


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DCMS Foundation Launches 2021 #FluVaxJax Campaign with Community Partners



Jacksonville, FL (September 8, 2021) – The Duval County Medical Society Foundation (DCMS Foundation) today launched the 2021 #FluVaxJax campaign with a goal of increasing the rate of influenza vaccinations on the First Coast.

This collaboration between local hospitals and health systems, pharmacies, health insurance companies, safety net programs, the Florida Department of Health in Clay, Duval, Nassau, and St. Johns Counties, the Jacksonville Mayor's office, local media, and many others provides a widespread message regarding the importance of flu vaccines as healthcare providers continue to battle COVID-19.

Background

As the COVID-19 pandemic continues, we must keep an eye out for the fall and winter months. This is typically a time of the year when hospitalizations increase and ICU bed utilization rises. While adding COVID-19 patients to the mix, we will likely see a point where our hospital systems are not able to add further patients which could then jeopardize the health of our region.

Vaccinations for the flu work to not only decrease infection rates but also to minimize adverse outcomes from being infected. Minimizing the number of people who have to be hospitalized for the flu in the fall/winter may allow us to have appropriate bed capacity for COVID-19 patients and others requiring hospitalization.

Our Campaign

In an average year, the First Coast has about a 36.9% adult vaccination rate.* During the 2020/ 2021 flu season, the #FluVaxJax campaign helped to increase the adult flu vaccination rate to 48.5% by the end of flu season.

The campaign will continue for the 2021/ 2022 flu season. No-cost flu vaccine vouchers will once again be distributed to the uninsured. Please keep in mind that while COVID-19 vaccines are free, the flu vaccine is not. An uninsured person usually pays between \$35-\$55 for the vaccine. A no-cost flu vaccine voucher request can be submitted through www.fluvaxjax.com by selecting Get a Vaccine.

Interview Opportunities

The DCMS/local hospitals/health systems and pharmacies have provided physicians and pharmacists to discuss the flu and the importance of flu vaccination. [Click here](#) to download. Those listed can also discuss the COVID-19 vaccine.

*Data from the [Florida Health Charts](#)

VaxJaxKids

Information on a pediatric vaccine campaign for the flu vaccine, MMR vaccine, and Tdap vaccine can be found at vaxjaxkids.com or by reaching out to Bethany Atkins, MD, at (904) 861-7918.

#FLUVAXJAX



**Helping physicians
care for the health
of our community**



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