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## **Prevea Health, HSHS hospitals urge community members to get flu shot** Appointments available now at Prevea locations throughout Northeast Wisconsin

**Green Bay, Wis.** – Prevea Health and HSHS St. Vincent, St. Mary's, St. Nicholas and St. Clare Memorial hospitals are encouraging community members to get their flu shot as the flu season approaches amidst the COVID-19 pandemic.

"We have one tool that we can use against the flu that we don't have yet for COVID-19. That tool is a vaccine, and getting vaccinated for the flu is the most important step you can take to prevent the disease," said Dr. Ashok Rai, President and CEO, Prevea Health.

The flu vaccine fights a different group of flu viruses each year; therefore, it's important to be vaccinated yearly. Flu shots are especially important for young children, pregnant women, people age 65 and older, and people with chronic health conditions like asthma, diabetes, or heart and lung disease.

"We are urging as many people as able to get their flu vaccination this year as soon as possible," said Dr. Rai.

***Appointments for flu vaccines are now available at Prevea Health locations across Northeast Wisconsin, including the Greater Green Bay, Lakeshore and Northern regions. Appointments can be scheduled by calling (888) 277-3832, and through the MyPrevea patient portal at [myprevea.com](http://myprevea.com). Flu vaccine clinics with extended evening and weekend hours are also available. For more information, please visit: [www.prevea.com/flu](http://www.prevea.com/flu)***

"As COVID-19 still exists in our communities, it is more important now than ever to get a flu shot to keep ourselves and loved ones healthy, and to ensure our community hospitals do not become overwhelmed by these two very infectious diseases," said Ken Nelson, Chief Nursing Officer for HSHS St. Vincent and St. Mary's hospitals. "Flu vaccine prevents tens of thousands of hospitalizations each year. During 2018-2019, flu vaccinations prevented an estimated 58,000 flu-related hospitalizations, according to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention."

Additional insight about the upcoming flu season and the concerns it poses for health care and our communities amidst the COVID-19 pandemic is provided in the latest episode of Prevea Health's podcast, *Plug in to Health*. To listen, visit [www.prevea.com/podcast](http://www.prevea.com/podcast) or download *Plug in to Health* for free on Apple, Google Play or other major podcasting platforms. The episode is called, "Fight the Flu."

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### **About HSHS St. Vincent Hospital and HSHS St. Mary's Hospital Medical Center**

HSHS St. Vincent Hospital and HSHS St. Mary's Hospital Medical Center have been delivering quality health care to Green Bay and its surrounding communities since 1888. With HSHS St. Vincent being the largest tertiary care hospital and HSHS

St. Mary's location on Green Bay's west side, patients from Northeastern Wisconsin and Upper Michigan benefit from a comprehensive range of services that include cancer care, women's services, emergency and trauma care, preventive care across the lifespan, digestive health, orthopedic, cardiac care, neurosciences, rehabilitation and pediatrics. Affiliates of Hospital Sisters Health System, the hospitals primary purpose is to continue Christ's healing love through the delivery of competent and compassionate health care in an environment sensitive to the needs of all people. Both hospitals are accredited by the Joint Commission of Accreditation of Healthcare Organizations.

#### **About HSHS St. Nicholas Hospital**

HSHS St. Nicholas Hospital has been delivering high quality health care to Sheboygan and its surrounding communities since 1890. HSHS St. Nicholas Hospital provides a comprehensive range of services that include cancer care, women's services, 24-hour emergency care, digestive health, orthopedics, cardiac, home health and hospice care. The hospital's primary purpose is to continue Christ's healing love through the delivery of high quality and compassionate health care in an environment sensitive to the needs of all people. HSHS St. Nicholas Hospital is accredited by the Joint Commission of Accreditation of Healthcare Organizations. An affiliate of Hospital Sisters Health System, we draw on the history of St. Francis of Assisi as we move to continue serving the health care needs of our area in Christ's healing ministry, caring for all people. To learn more, visit [www.stnicholashospital.org](http://www.stnicholashospital.org).

#### **About HSHS St. Clare Memorial Hospital**

HSHS St. Clare Memorial Hospital serves Oconto Falls and the surrounding communities as a federally-designated critical access hospital with a 24-hour emergency department, urgent care, general, vascular and orthopedic surgical services, inpatient and outpatient surgical and diagnostic services, rehabilitation, oncology outpatient clinic and women's care. HSHS St. Clare Memorial Hospital, in affiliation with Prevea Health, has six regional health center locations in Gillett, Lena, Mountain, Oconto, Oconto Falls and Suring. HSHS St. Clare Memorial Hospital Pharmacies are located in Gillett and Oconto Falls. Founded in 1921 as Community Memorial Hospital, in 2014, HSHS St. Clare Memorial Hospital became the fourteenth hospital in Hospital Sisters Health System. As an affiliate of Hospital Sisters Health System, we draw on the history of St. Francis of Assisi as we move to continue serving the health care needs of our area in Christ's healing ministry, caring for all people. For more information about St. Clare, visit [www.stclarememorial.org](http://www.stclarememorial.org).

#### **About Hospital Sisters Health System**

Hospital Sisters Health System's (HSHS) mission is to reveal and embody Christ's healing love for all people through our high quality, Franciscan health care ministry. HSHS provides state-of-the-art health care to our patients and is dedicated to serving all people, especially the most vulnerable, at each of our 15 Local Systems and physician practices in Illinois (Breese, Decatur, Effingham, Greenville, Highland, Litchfield, O'Fallon, Shelbyville and Springfield) and Wisconsin (Chippewa Falls, Eau Claire, Oconto Falls, Sheboygan, and two in Green Bay). HSHS is sponsored by Hospital Sisters Ministries. For more information about HSHS, visit [www.hshs.org](http://www.hshs.org). For more information about Hospital Sisters of St. Francis, visit [www.hospitalsisters.org](http://www.hospitalsisters.org).

#### **About Prevea Health**

Founded in Green Bay, Wis. in 1996, Prevea Health is a health care organization that provides high-quality, primary and specialty health care in 80+ locations across Northern, Eastern and Western Wisconsin in clinic and hospital settings. It is partnered with six Hospital Sisters Health System (HSHS) hospitals across Wisconsin to provide patients a system of highly-coordinated care, close to home: HSHS St. Vincent Hospital and HSHS St. Mary's Hospital Medical Center in Green Bay; HSHS St. Nicholas Hospital in Sheboygan; HSHS St. Clare Memorial Hospital in Oconto Falls; HSHS Sacred Heart Hospital in Eau Claire; and HSHS St. Joseph's Hospital in Chippewa Falls. For more information, visit [www.prevea.com](http://www.prevea.com).