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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

PHARMACISTS STILL PROVIDING FLU SHOTS AS FLU SEASON PEAKS

LITTLE ROCK, AR (Jan. 14, 2012) – Pharmacies are still providing flu shots in Arkansas, according to the Arkansas Pharmacists Association (APA). Because the flu season is peaking, patients’ pharmacies may be out of vaccine temporarily, but most can reorder vaccine within 24 to 48 hours.

“It’s not too late to get a flu shot,” said Dr. Eric Crumbaugh, Immunization Coordinator for the Arkansas Pharmacists Association. “Patients who still need a flu shot should talk to their local pharmacist. There is still plenty of vaccine available but demand is up.”

According to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, the seasonal influenza may be reaching epidemic proportions and peaking. The vaccine takes 10 days to provide full protection. Those who are vaccinated may still get the flu but it will be a milder case.

Seasonal influenza is a highly contagious virus that is spread when people are in close contact with one another. It is important to protect adults and the children that they care for. The virus can cause a mild to severe illness, and can even lead to death. The CDC provides more information on the best protection for seasonal influenza on its website: www.cdc.gov/vaccines/.

The Arkansas Pharmacists Association, founded in 1882, is the statewide professional association representing approximately 2,200 pharmacists in Arkansas. APA strives to further the professional advancement of pharmacists, advocate the value of pharmacy, and safeguard the health and well-being of every Arkansan. Its mission is to advance a professional and business environment for Arkansas pharmacists to be successful and fulfilled in serving patients.

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