



For Immediate Release

Contact: Craig Orfield
(202) 224-6770

Tuesday, November 28, 2006

***ENZI URGES HIGH-RISK AMERICANS TO RECEIVE FLU
VACCINATION***

Washington, D.C. – Kicking off “National Influenza Vaccination Week,” U.S. Senator Mike Enzi (R-Wyo.), Chairman of the Senate Health, Education, Labor and Pensions (HELP) Committee, today urged Americans at high-risk for developing a severe case of the flu or severe complications to join him in receiving the influenza vaccination during the week of November 27 – December 4.

“The flu vaccine not only reduces worker and student absenteeism, but also prevents hospitalization, severe complications, and even death among high-risk groups,” Enzi said. “I encourage all children, older individuals, and others who have a high risk of exposure but have not yet received their flu vaccine to do so this week in order to maximize its benefit.”

The Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices (ACIP) includes as high-risk groups children 6-months old, women who are pregnant, people over the age of 50, anyone with a chronic medical condition, and those who come in close contact with high-risk individuals (such as teachers, health care workers, parents, and caregivers), and recommends that people in these groups receive the flu vaccine. Because most flu activity occurs in January or later, receiving the vaccine now is highly beneficial.

Enzi noted that children under 6 months of age, persons with an egg allergy, and other specific individuals should not receive the flu vaccine. For a complete list of groups that should not receive the flu vaccine, visit <http://www.cdc.gov/flu/keyfacts.htm>.

Enzi reminded Americans that children who are uninsured, underinsured, or Medicaid-eligible can receive free influenza vaccination through the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) Vaccines for Children program. More information about this program and local providers can be found at: http://www.cdc.gov/nip/vfc/contacts_vfc_coord.htm.

To find a health care facility administering the vaccine, Enzi encouraged Americans to visit http://www.cdc.gov/nip/vfc/contacts_vfc_coord.htm, a website endorsed by the CDC.

####