

## **Devoted Health and Publix team up to improve flu vaccination coverage in Florida**

WALTHAM, Mass., September 1, 2019 - Devoted Health ([www.devoted.com](http://www.devoted.com)), a next generation Medicare Advantage plan, announced today a partnership with Publix Pharmacy ([www.publix.com](http://www.publix.com)) to provide flu shots at a series of health fairs across the state of Florida.

The events will cover over 65 locations in 8 counties and will run through the middle of October. Their objective is to raise awareness of the importance of an annual flu shot, while also improving accessibility to the vaccine. Events will be held at medical centers, senior centers, community centers, parks, churches, apartment complexes, and senior living communities.

“At Devoted Health, we’re here to serve seniors in our community and we’re always looking for new and innovative ways to improve the lives of those we serve” said Dariel Quintana, Market President of Florida for Devoted Health. “We’re so thankful to be partnering with Publix, as well as our network of community partners, who will be hosting these events.”

Licensed pharmacists from Publix will be on hand to administer the shots, and every person who gets one will also receive a \$10 Publix gift card. Devoted Health will provide guests of the fairs with free gifts, prizes and raffles, and ice cream. For a complete list of health fairs, [visit the Devoted Health website](#).

Based on the most recent [CDC estimates](#) on flu vaccination coverage by state, Florida ranked 48th in the nation with only 35.6% of the population receiving vaccinations — just slightly ahead of Wyoming and Louisiana.

“We’ve been working hard to tackle the issue of low flu vaccination coverage in the state of Florida, and we always welcome the opportunity to work with new partners who are eager to help” said Dain Rusk, VP of Pharmacy Operations at Publix Super Markets, Inc. “We’re thrilled to partner with Devoted for these events. This initiative fits in so well with our mission to promote better health and a sense of well-being in our surrounding communities.”

The importance of improving flu vaccination coverage rates is brought into stark relief when considering CDC data on last year’s flu season, where the U.S. had at least [531,000 flu-related hospitalizations](#) and upwards of [61,200 flu-related deaths](#). Healthcare experts are also wary of the upcoming season.

“We want to do everything we can to help people get their flu shot and part of that work is to dispel common myths,” said Dr. Neil Wagle, Chief Medical Officer at Devoted Health. “For example, some people think if you live in a warm climate like Florida, you can’t get the flu — you can and we see it every year. And some think the flu shot can give you the flu — it can’t. There are no live viruses in the shot.”

To receive a flu shot at [these events](#), individuals must present a valid health insurance card, but no copays will be collected at the fairs. In most cases, annual flu vaccinations are 100% covered by insurance.

Devoted Health currently offers Medicare Advantage HMO plans in 8 Florida counties. Since launching in 2019, Devoted has grown to more than 3,000 members and a team of more than 350 employees across offices in Miramar, Florida and Waltham, Massachusetts. To learn more about Devoted Health, [visit their website](#) or call 1-800-317-1205 (TTY 711).

### **About Devoted Health**

Devoted Health is a next-generation Medicare Advantage plan guided by a deep belief that every member should be treated like we would treat our own family: with loving care, a profound commitment to their health and well-being, and respect for them and their time. As a "payvidor" that integrates being both a payor and provider of health care services, Devoted partners with top doctors and hospitals, uses industry-leading technology, and supports members with dedicated guides and tech-enabled care services in order to help Medicare beneficiaries get the highest-quality health care — the right care in the right place at the right time. Led by co-founders Ed and Todd Park, Devoted Health is powered by a proven, world-class healthcare and technology team. For more information, go to [www.devoted.com](http://www.devoted.com) or follow us on Twitter @DevotedHealth.

