

Few places have seasonal flu vaccines

Posted: Nov 03, 2009 10:30 PM EST Updated: Nov 04, 2009 12:02 AM EST

By Laura Geller - [bio](#) | [email](#)

RICHMOND, VA (WWBT) - Doctors offices and pharmacies are either running short or just plain out of the seasonal flu vaccine.

We wanted to find out just how hard is it to find a regular flu shot. And, it seems locating the seasonal flu vaccine this year is much like finding a needle in a haystack -- almost impossible.

After a lot of leg work we finally lucked out and found a couple stores with the vaccines available. But, like luck, those shots will likely run out quickly. It took hours searching the internet and dozens of phone calls to find the elusive seasonal flu shot, which seems as valuable as gold nowadays.

The only stores we could find in the metro area that have any seasonal vaccines left are in Mechanicsville. The CVS at 9498 Charter Gate Drive and the CVS at Mechanicsville Turnpike and Lee Davis Road will at least have shots left through Wednesday. It's anyone's guess, though, how long that supply will last.

We tried chains ranging from Target to Rite Aid and Ukrop's. Even smaller independent pharmacies have nothing left to give. Some of them are hoping to replenish their supplies by the end of the month.

So we asked Patient First Dr. Kenneth Lucas: "If you aren't able to get your flu shot until late in the season, is it still worth it?"

Lucas says, "We've had seasonal flu last until Easter time in the past. So, in general if you have not had it, in particular if you are high risk, you definitely should get it whenever it's available."

Doctors say the problems could be alleviated next year with a possible combined seasonal and H1N1 vaccine.

(c) 2009. WWBT, Inc. All rights reserved. This material may not be published, broadcast, rewritten, or redistributed.