CDC Joins American Lung Association and Actress Jennifer Garner to Launch National Influenza Immunization Initiative at Press Conference in NYC on Monday, November 12th

Mother and TV, Film and Broadway Star Showcases *Faces of Influenza*

**WHAT:** Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) will join leaders of the American Lung Association at a press conference in New York City to emphasize the need for annual influenza immunization. Actress/mother Jennifer Garner, national spokesperson for the Lung Association’s *Faces of Influenza*, will join fellow actor Dean Cain at this event. They are among the estimated 220 million Americans considered to be the “faces” of influenza – individuals recommended for annual vaccination to prevent serious complications from the virus, including hospitalization and even death.

The Lung Association’s *Faces of Influenza* campaign aims to put a “face” on influenza and, by doing so, stress the importance of annual influenza immunization throughout the fall and winter months. Garner will join the Lung Association and city and Federal officials to provide the latest statistics on seasonal influenza and encourage Americans to get immunized this season.

The kick-off event will also feature the *Faces of Influenza* Portrait Gallery – a photo exhibition of dramatic black-and-white portraits and compelling personal stories of famous, and not-so-famous Americans, who fall into one or more of the groups recommended for immunization by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC). Also on hand will be everyday people who will share their stories of how influenza has dramatically affected their lives.

More information on the campaign and the Lung Association’s Flu Clinic Locator listing additional local vaccination clinics can be accessed at [www.facesofinfluenza.org](http://www.facesofinfluenza.org).

**WHO:**
- Actress Jennifer Garner, mother to a young child
- Actor Dean Cain, who starred as Superman in “Lois & Clark”
- Bernadette A. Toomey, President and Chief Executive Officer of the American Lung Association
- Anne Schuchat, MD – Director of Centers for Disease Control and Prevention’s (CDC) National Center for Immunization and Respiratory Diseases
- Norman Edelman, MD, Chief Medical Officer, American Lung Association
- Jane Zucker, MD, MSc, Assistant Commissioner, Bureau of Immunization, New York City Department of Health and Mental Hygiene
- Other public health officials from national/state/local agencies
- Hundreds of New York “Faces of Influenza” on hand to be immunized

**WHEN/WHERE:**
Monday, November 12
Gotham Hall, 1356 Broadway @ 36th Street
- 8:00 a.m. - 1:00 p.m.: Free immunization clinic
- 10:00 a.m. - 10:30 a.m.: Media briefing with Jennifer Garner, Lung Association and health officials
- 10:30 a.m. – 11:00 a.m.: Photo-ops and on-site media interviews to be coordinated

**WHY:** On average, approximately 36,000 Americans die and about 226,000 are hospitalized due to influenza and its complications every year. Combined with pneumonia, it is the 8th leading cause of death in the U.S. More than two-thirds of all Americans are recommended for annual vaccination but immunization rates fall far short every year, leaving many unprotected and at risk for severe illness. Since the influenza season typically does not peak until February, vaccination should continue throughout the fall and winter months, and even into the spring.

**CONTACT:** Jennifer Garner and Dean Cain are available for one-on-one interviews on November 12 by pre-arrangement only. To schedule an interview, please contact Iris Shaffer at 708-799-6284.