April 21, 2015

**Flu Vaccine Ineffective for Most**

Now that the flu season is over, guess what! The vaccine was only 23% effective overall and only 12% effective in adults – the lowest effectiveness rate in ten years. Because flu viruses rapidly mutate, it’s difficult to make the correct vaccine.

Nevertheless, the Centers for Disease Control encourages people to get vaccinated, and we continue to pay for the federal vaccine program. The CDC argues that the ineffective vaccine can still help mitigate the severity of the disease. I’d like to see proof. In 2015, taxpayers spent $187 million for the federal influenza program. Perhaps we should rethink this expense.

“Seasonal flu vaccine only 12 percent effective in adults – CDC,” RT.com, January 16, 2015.

“Overview of the Budget Request” (CDC FY 2016 Congressional Justification), Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, January 30, 2015, p. 11.