

Question December 25, 2013

**Q. We've had a lot of rain this year. Do you have any figures on exactly how much we have had?**

A. We checked the Mountain Research and Education Center, the University of Georgia website for rainfall totals and found that from January 1, 2013 through December 15, 2013 we had a total of 71.49 inches of rain. This made a total of 166 rainy days. Compare this to 2012 when we had 47.13 inches of rain and 146 rainy days. I know you can do the math but this is a total of 24.36 more inches of rain! Wow!

**Q. Which days had the highest rainfall amounts?**

A. Jan 30 – 4.14  
Apr. 17 – 2.86  
July 3 – 4.17  
Nov 26 – 3.84

**Q. Do you have any information on whether North Georgia is still in a drought?**

A. According to the website, United States Drought Monitor, the drought is over for the Northern half of Georgia although drought conditions still exist for the middle half of Georgia including Atlanta. This information is from the National Drought summary for Dec. 10, 2013. For this same time period in 2010 we were still in “abnormally dry” to “moderate drought” conditions. So although we appear to be in the clear right now as far as a drought, it would only take one or two dry years to put us right back in a drought situation. We should remain conscious of water use and conserve whenever possible.

**Q. Is it too late to get a flu shot for this year?**

A. According to Glenda McGill at the Health Dept. they still have flu vaccine and it is not too late for a shot to be effective. The flu season is really just now beginning and it takes about two weeks after vaccination for antibodies to develop in the body and provide protection against influenza virus infection. Most of the time influenza activity peaks in January or later.

**Q. Who should get vaccinated this season?**

A. Everyone who is at least 6 months of age should get a flu vaccine this season, and it is especially important for some people to get vaccinated.

- People who are at high risk of developing serious complications (like pneumonia) if they get sick with the flu.
- People who have certain medical conditions including asthma, diabetes, and chronic lung disease.
- Pregnant women
- People younger than 5 years (and especially those younger than 2), and people 65 years and older.

- A complete list is available at [People Who Are at High Risk of Developing Flu-Related Complications \(/flu/about/disease/high\\_risk.htm\)](#).
- People who live with or care for others who are at high risk of developing serious complications (see list above).
  - Household contacts and caregivers of people with certain medical conditions including asthma, diabetes, and chronic lung disease.
  - Household contacts and caregivers of infants less than 6 months old.
  - Health care personnel.

On behalf of the employees of Union County, we want to wish you a Very Merry Christmas and Happy New Year. Please be careful as you travel over the holidays and if you ever need assistance, please give the county a call at 706-439-6000 and emergency calls to 911.