Why more people aren’t flocking to get free flu shots

BY HEIDI FORD/PHOTO BY MICHAEL WALLACE

More than anything, Saul Franco Rodriguez’s parents wish to hear their son speak.

Saul is a spunky 3½-year-old who smiles a lot and cannot stop making faces when he is put in a disliked or uncomfortable situation. Saul communicates his emotions and desires. But Saul doesn’t speak. When he was born, his parents say, he was silent and appeared to be sleeping. By 6 months, Saul hadn’t shown an interest in speaking or — by Yvonne, his sister who knew how to read — Saul’s parents say their son either children started sitting and crawling earlier. Saul’s mother, Bernardina Franco Rodri-

Puerto Rican health officials who say the vaccinations are mandatory for the flu, which caused as many as 10,000 deaths during the past flu season, including 245 in Wash-

In the past decade, the number of dispensed vaccines barely changed in the past decade, with the annual flu shot with the number. Yet most Americans skip the flu shot.

The 2010 Affordable Care Act required all insurers to waive out-of-pocket costs for plan members.

The fact that more people aren’t flocking to get free flu shots is disheartening to Dr. Daniel Jernigan, director of the National Immunization Program at the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), told the House Appropriations Committee that nearly all people get vaccinated worries public-health officials who say the vaccine is the best weapon to prevent flu, which caused as many as 10,000 deaths during the last flu season.

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) in Nashville, Tennessee, and medical director of the National Foundation for Infectious Diseases, said about 70% of deaths could be avoided if everyone got the flu shot.

Jernigan acknowledged that flu shots are not a panacea for the flu, which caused as many as 10,000 deaths during the last flu season, including 245 in Washington state and hundreds of thousands of hospitalizations nationwide. (The last flu season was Sept. 30, 2018, to Sept. 28, 2019.)

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Judges put temporary hold on car tab initiative

BY ROBERT CHOWDER

Seattle City Councilors temporarily put a hold on car tab fees, which are currently charged at 61 cents per thousand dollars of assessed valuation. The move is a break on the city’s fee that will be used to keep the Seattle Police Department.

The fee was approved by city voters in 2018 as a way to fund the city’s police department. The city council is currently reviewing a proposal to raise the fee, which is currently charged at 61 cents per thousand dollars of assessed valuation. The move is a break on the city’s fee that will be used to keep the Seattle Police Department.

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