



Influenza and Pneumonia Toolkit for Providers and Patients

Influenza (flu) vaccination is especially important to help protect individuals and prevent additional strain on an already overburdened U.S. health care system. The single most effective thing you can do to avoid the flu is to get vaccinated every year. This toolkit provides links to resources to support the prevention of influenza and pneumonia throughout your community. Additionally, you can view the following state-specific public health department influenza resources: [Oklahoma](#), [Iowa](#), [Illinois](#) and [Colorado](#).

Provider & Patient Resources



Preparing for the flu season? Here is what you need to know. The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) has put together a comprehensive influenza [resource page](#) for patients and providers that contains tools and information on prevention, symptoms, diagnosis and treatment. Go to this [influenza Q&A](#) to learn more.

The CDC describes the similarities and differences between [flu and COVID-19](#) and [flu and common colds](#).

The flu vaccine is the best protection against flu. Anyone can get sick with flu, even healthy people, and serious problems related to flu can happen to anyone at any age, but [some people are at higher risk](#) of developing serious flu-related [complications](#) if they get sick. This includes [people 65 years and older](#), people of any age with certain chronic medical conditions (such as asthma, diabetes or heart disease), pregnant people and children younger than five years. The CDC has created a fact sheet for adults 65 years and older, available in [English](#) and [Spanish](#).

These CDC [influenza printable materials](#) include messaging to address flu recommendations for all types of audiences. Select your audience and utilize these printable resources to provide education and promote vaccination.

Pneumococcal disease affects all ages, but older adults are at greatest risk of serious illness and death. Vaccines are the best way to prevent pneumococcal disease. Learn more about [pneumococcal vaccine recommendations](#) from the CDC.

Patient Resources



The CDC is partnering with the National Kidney Foundation (NKF) to spread the word that everyone, especially patients with kidney disease, should get a flu vaccination this fall. [Read more](#) to learn why people with chronic kidney disease (CKD) are at high risk of developing serious flu complications, which can result in hospitalization and even death.

Learn [preventive actions](#) from the CDC that can help slow the spread of germs that cause respiratory illnesses, like flu.

There are [misconceptions](#) about the flu shot that cause people to skip this important preventive measure. [Get the facts](#) from the CDC on flu vaccinations.



Provider Resources



This [report](#) updates the [2021-2022](#) recommendations of the Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices (ACIP) regarding the use of seasonal influenza vaccines in the United States. Questions and answers are provided regarding getting a flu vaccine during the COVID-19 pandemic.

The CDC has information for specific high risk groups, including people with [disabilities](#), [racial and ethnic minority groups](#), [people with heart disease or history of stroke](#) and [people with diabetes](#).

The CDC and Food and Drug Administration (FDA) monitor the safety of all vaccines licensed in the United States, including seasonal influenza vaccines. This [summary](#) provides information on general vaccine safety, adverse events and reporting, contraindications and precautions.

CDC's National Healthcare Safety Network (NHSN) offers a feature to track weekly influenza vaccination for health care personnel (HCP). Reporting vaccination data weekly allows organizations to monitor HCP vaccination rates in a timely way and take action during the influenza season to increase vaccination uptake, if needed. Reporting forms and training materials are available on the [NHSN website](#).

The CDC [seasonal flu vaccination campaign materials](#) are available to assist partners in communicating about the importance of vaccination. This digital toolkit includes details on events/activities, sample social media and newsletter content, graphics, web assets and media prep material. This material is downloadable, shareable, and some of the material is customizable.

The CDC suggests using the [SHARE Method](#) to make a strong vaccine recommendation and provide important information to help patients make informed decisions about vaccinations.

The CDC developed this concise [Pneumococcal Vaccine Timing for Adults](#) document to help providers ensure patients, including those with underlying medical conditions, are up to date with pneumococcal vaccinations.

Pharmacists play a key role in protecting patients against influenza. CDC developed the [Pharmacist Guide and Talking Points](#) to support pharmacists in advocating for and administering influenza vaccines.

CDC's [You Call the Shots](#) is an interactive, web-based immunization training course consisting of a series of modules that discuss vaccine-preventable diseases and explain the latest recommendations for vaccine use. Each module provides learning opportunities, self-test practice questions, reference and resource materials and an extensive glossary.