



IMMUNIZATION

Annually THOUSANDS of Americans are hospitalized and even DIE due to VACCINE-PREVENTABLE DISEASES

Each year flu causes an average of

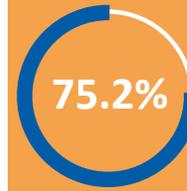


226,000
hospitalizations
and up to
49,000
deaths.¹

In 2012, pneumococcal disease
caused approximately



32,000
cases of illness
and approximately
3,300
deaths.¹



of healthcare
personnel received
the flu vaccination
in the 2013-14 flu
season.²

- Flu vaccination was highest among pharmacists (95.3 percent) and nurses (89.0 percent), followed by physicians (88.9 percent), nurse practitioners/physician assistants (87.0 percent), other clinical personnel (81.3 percent).
- Vaccination rates were lowest for assistants/aides (64.4 percent) and non-clinical personnel (75.2 percent).²

Healthcare workers care for people at high risk for influenza-related complications; it is especially important for them to get vaccinated annually.

STRATEGIES THAT WORK TO INCREASE STAFF IMMUNIZATION

Leadership Support^{3,6}

Administration/leadership attend immunization planning meetings and are first to be vaccinated to set a highly visible example.

Mandatory Workplace Immunization Policies³

- Employees requesting exemption due to religious or medical needs are required to wear surgical masks for duration of flu season, and any staff not vaccinated by deadline are subject to termination.
- Employees are required to visit their institution's intranet influenza home page for required educational materials: more information about the disease, Q & A resources, immunization clinic locations/hours, institution policy, and an online immunization form.

Staff Immunization Strategies^{4,7,8}

- Provide free vaccinations on-site.
- Offer immunizations to all staff and volunteers at varied times and days across shifts.
- Provide staff education.
- Identify/address staff concerns about immunization.

Mobile Vaccination Cart^{3,6,8}

- Take mobile "immunization clinic" to departments for staff to be immunized.
- Use peer vaccinators.
- Refer workers not immunized to supervisors for follow-up reminders.

Key Messages⁶

- Protect yourself!
- Protect your family!
- Protect your patients!
- Even healthy people can get the flu!

Immunization Communication Modes^{3,6,7}

- Immunization kiosks
- Internal website
- Links to external websites
- Q & A sessions
- Internal newsletters
- Emails
- Departmental meetings
- Hand-washing clinics

Immunization Campaign Ideas³

- Sponsor a slogan contest with prizes, print the winning slogan on rubber bracelets, and distribute to staff members.
- Throw a tailgate kick-off party that includes food and prizes while providing vaccinations.

Staff "Flu Champions"⁵

Staff volunteers from various units speak with coworkers one-on-one about benefits of immunization.

Sources:

- ¹ CDC. "Vaccine-Preventable Adult Diseases." <http://www.cdc.gov/vaccines/adults/vpd.html>
- ² CDC. "Influenza Vaccination Coverage Among Health Care Personnel – United States, 2014-2015." Sept 18, 2015/64 (36); 993-999.
- ³ National Foundation for Infectious Diseases. "Immunizing Healthcare Personnel Against Influenza." <http://www.nfid.org/pdfs/bestpracticestoolkitdocument.pdf>
- ⁴ CDC. "Health Care Personnel and Flu Vaccination, Internet Panel Survey, United States, November 2014." <http://www.cdc.gov/flu/fluview/hcp-ips-nov2014.html>
- ⁵ San Diego Health Immunization Branch. "Do No Harm...Stick Out Your Arm!" toolkit and vaccination campaign resources. http://www.sdiz.org/documents/HCP/SDHPH/LTCF-Flu-Toolkit/LTCF_Flu_Toolkit.pdf
- ⁶ CDC. "Make it Your Business to Fight the Flu" toolkit for businesses and employers. http://www.cdc.gov/flu/pdf/business/Toolkit_Seasonal_Flu_For_Businesses_and_Employers.pdf
- ⁷ CDC. "Barriers and Strategies to Improving Influenza Vaccination among Healthcare Personnel." <http://www.cdc.gov/flu/toolkit/long-term-care/strategies.htm>
- ⁸ Guide to Preventive Services. "Interventions to promote seasonal influenza vaccinations among healthcare workers." www.thecommunityguide.org/worksites/flu-hcw.html(flu-hcw.html)