



Vaccination Pole Vault

Promoting Employee Influenza Vaccinations

Viral Respiratory Diseases Detection and Containment in Long-term Care Facilities Workshop

Louisiana Department of Health

Office of Public Health | Infectious Disease Epidemiology Section

October 22, 2020 at 10:30 a.m.



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The speaker does not have a financial or non-financial relationship with a commercial interest that would create a conflict of interest with this presentation.

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Disclosure Statement



Objective & Outline

By the end of this presentation, attendees will be able to improve employee influenza vaccination rates in their facilities for infectious diseases containment.

1. Importance of immunization services during the COVID-19 pandemic.
2. Flu vaccination rates by healthcare setting.
3. Flu vaccination facts, methods, and literature review.



But first, a poll.

What was your healthcare facility's employee influenza vaccination rate for the 2019-2020 flu season?

- A. Less than 50%
- B. 51% to 75%
- C. 76% to 90%
- D. 91% or more
- E. Unknown
- F. Not applicable

Polls are not anonymous. You must select an answer to participate fully in this activity!



How did your facility match up?

How Many Health Care Workers Got Vaccinated Last Season?

- 2019-2020 flu vaccination coverage among health care personnel (HCP) was 80.6%, similar to coverage during the past five seasons (77.3% -81.1%)
- By work setting, flu vaccination coverage was highest among HCP working in hospitals (93.2%).
- Vaccination coverage was highest (94.4%) among health care personnel working in settings where vaccination was required.
 - Rate differences by setting
 - Worksite vaccination rates versus off-site vaccination rates



Louisiana-specific Average Employee Influenza Vaccination Rates: 2019-2020 Season

Facility Type	Employees % (No. Facilities)	LIP* % (No. Facilities)	Students % (No. Facilities)	All
Acute Care Hospital	84% (83)	84% (70)	83% (62)	83% (83)
Ambulatory Surgery Center	77% (17)	77% (16)	N/A	77% (17)
Inpatient Psychiatric Facility	87% (15)	86% (8)	87% (7)	86% (15)
Inpatient Rehabilitation Facility	82% (35)	82% (31)	70% (17)	82% (35)
Long-term Acute Care Hospital	83% (24)	83% (22)	85% (12)	83% (24)

**LIP: licensed independent practitioner*

Evaluating a Standardized Measure of Healthcare Personnel Influenza Vaccination

Lindley, et al.

- ▶ Aim: determine the feasibility of implementing a standardized measure for reporting HCP influenza vaccination data in various types of healthcare facilities.
- ▶ HCP categories:
 - Vaccinated at the healthcare facility
 - Vaccinated elsewhere
 - Had a medical contraindication to influenza vaccination
 - Declined vaccination
- ▶ Tracking non-employee HCP vaccination status was challenging



A Toolkit for Long-Term Care Employers

Increasing Influenza Vaccination among Health Care Personnel in Long-term Care Settings

- ▶ Why vaccinate
- ▶ How to increase coverage
- ▶ Available tools



Recommendations of the Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices (ACIP)

- ▶ Associated with outbreaks of severe respiratory illness
- ▶ Influenza outbreaks in hospitals and long-term care facilities have been associated with low vaccination rates among healthcare personnel (HCP)
- ▶ Substantial decreases in all-cause mortality and influenza-like illness when HCP are vaccinated against influenza



Recommendations of the Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices (ACIP)

Considerations Regarding Influenza Vaccination of HCP

- ▶ Barriers to HCP acceptance of influenza vaccination
- ▶ Factors that increase vaccine acceptance:
 - Desire for self-protection
 - Previous receipt of influenza vaccine
 - A desire to protect patients
 - Perceived effectiveness of vaccine
- ▶ Strategies for improvement of HCP vaccination rates
 - Campaigns to emphasize benefit of HCP vaccination
 - Vaccination of senior staff
 - Other factors



Recommendations of the Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices (ACIP)

Declinations...

- ▶ Go the distance...educate HCP who decline the influenza vaccine.
- ▶ Counsel on the benefits of the vaccine.

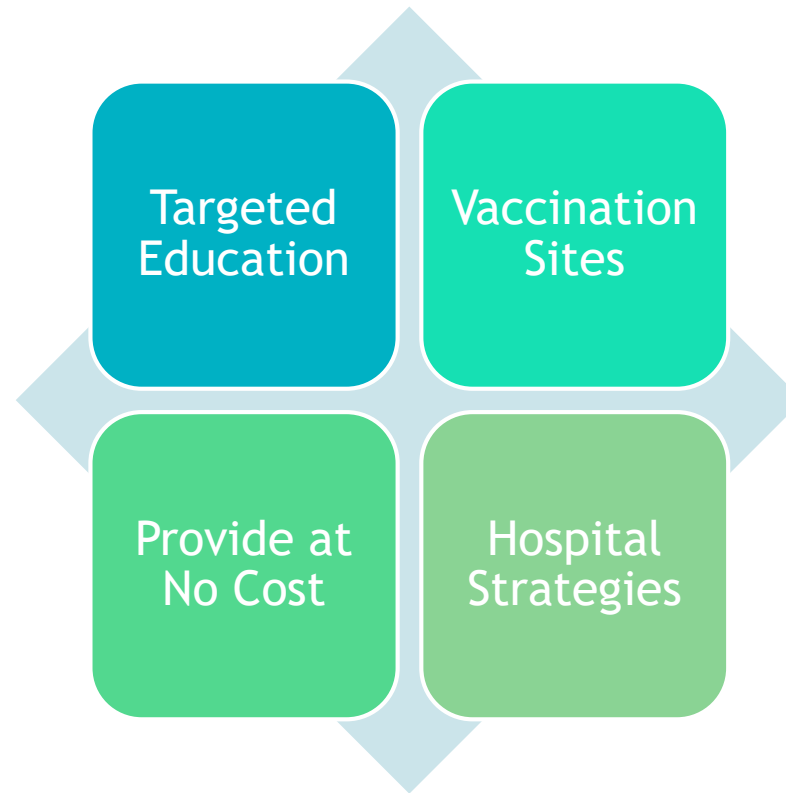


Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. Immunization of Health-Care Personnel. MMWR 2011;607:1-45.



Recommendations of the Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices (ACIP)

Developing a Comprehensive Influenza Vaccination Strategy



Recommendations of the Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices (ACIP)

Vaccine Effectiveness, Duration of Immunity, and Vaccine Safety

- ▶ Depends year to year
- ▶ Strains are selected for inclusion based on international surveillance and scientists' estimations
- ▶ Annual vaccination is recommended!



Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. Immunization of Health-Care Personnel. MMWR 2011;607:1-45.



Recommendations of the Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices (ACIP)

The recommendation since 1960! Available since 1945!

- ▶ Annual influenza vaccination
- ▶ One or more vaccine strains are updated almost every year
- ▶ Annual vaccination is appropriate and safe to begin as early as the vaccine is available
- ▶ HCP are prioritized when vaccine supply is limited



Importance of Influenza Vaccinations During the COVID-19 Pandemic

2020–21 U.S. Influenza Season

- ▶ It is unclear what impact the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic will have on the upcoming influenza season in the U.S.
 - There may be less influenza than usual because of social distancing and other measures to reduce COVID-19.
 - Influenza viruses and SARS-CoV-2 may co-circulate.
 - People may be co-infected with influenza and SARS-CoV-2.
- ▶ Presence of SARS-CoV-2 and influenza at the same time could place tremendous burden on the health care system and result in many illnesses, hospitalizations, and deaths.



Importance of Influenza Vaccinations During the COVID-19 Pandemic

2020–21 U.S. Influenza Season

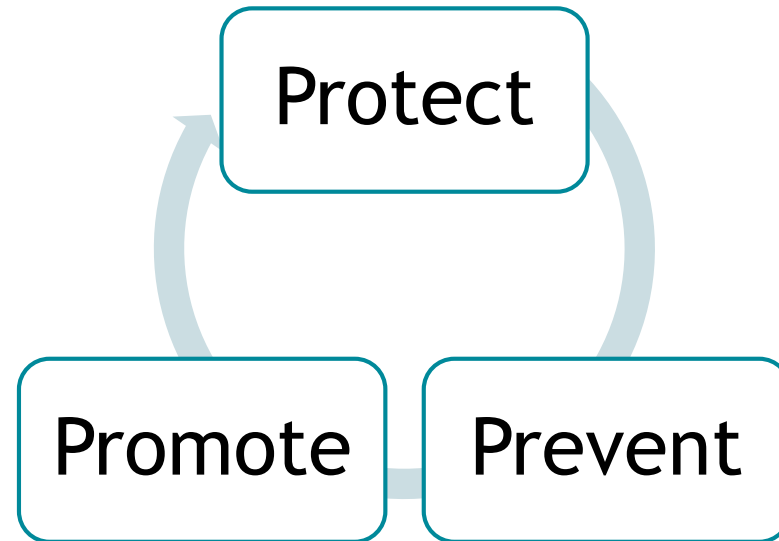
- ▶ SARS-CoV-2 continues to circulate.
- ▶ Increasing flu vaccination coverage will reduce stress on the health care system.
 - Decrease doctor visits and hospitalizations.
 - Reduce influenza diagnostic testing.
- ▶ Focus on adults at higher risk from COVID-19.
 - Staff and residents of long-term care facilities
 - Adults with underlying illnesses
 - African-Americans and Hispanics
 - Adults who are part of critical infrastructure



Recommendations

Measure, report, repeat!

- ▶ Influenza vaccination coverage among HCP as a measure of quality of care.
- ▶ Influenza vaccination rates among HCP within facilities should be regularly measured and reported.



Creating and Revising Your Facility's Influenza Vaccination Policy

LDH has provided a proposed policy for LTCF use since 2018!



Guidance for Creating an Employee Influenza Vaccination Program in Long-term Care Settings

September 7, 2018

Summary

The 2017-2018 influenza season was one of the worst seasons in the United States since public health officials began tracking more than 10 years ago. It not only was severe in duration, degree of infection, but also in the type of influenza (H3N2). H3N2-predominant seasons are associated with more severe illness especially among people older than 65 years and children. Nursing homes in Louisiana were hit particularly hard, with over 30% reporting at least one influenza outbreak. CDC defines an influenza outbreak at a long term care facility as 2 patients with influenza-like illness within 72 hours of each other and at least one has laboratory-confirmed influenza. During the 2017-2018 season, Flu outbreaks in Louisiana nursing homes accounted for 1,271 cases, 152 hospitalizations, and 31 deaths.

Severe and even fatal influenza illness can be introduced by newly admitted residents, health care workers and by visitors. Preventing transmission of influenza viruses and other infectious agents in long-term care facilities, requires a multi-faceted approach that includes the following:

1. Vaccination of all persons, including residents, employees, and accessory staff
2. Testing
3. Infection Control
4. Antiviral Treatment
5. Antiviral Chemoprophylaxis



https://ldh.la.gov/assets/docs/Fight_the_Flu/2018/SampleLTCFInfluenzaVaccinationPolicy.pdf



Another poll.

When was the last time your facility reviewed your healthcare worker influenza vaccination policy?

- A. Less than 6 months ago
- B. Within the last 6 to 12 months
- C. Over 12 months ago
- D. My facility does not have an employee influenza vaccination policy
- E. Unknown
- F. Not applicable

Polls are not anonymous. You must select an answer to participate fully in this activity!



Need a starting point? Start with a survey.

Surveys inform attitudes and barriers. Sample question.

1. How many influenza seasons have you received the flu vaccine in your life?
 - a. Less than 5 times
 - b. Between 6 and 10 times
 - c. 10 times or more
 - d. I have never been vaccinated

This informs how much effort your infection control and employee health programs will need to put into educational programs.



Need a starting point? Start with a survey.

Surveys inform attitudes and barriers. Sample question.

2. In the times you have received the seasonal influenza vaccine, where were you vaccinated?
 - a. Worksite (healthcare facility)
 - b. Commercial pharmacy (e.g., CVS, Walgreens)
 - c. Physician's office
 - d. Other
 - e. I have never been vaccinated

This informs whether your facility should promote worksite vaccinations or, if you have a worksite vaccination program, to promote its availability and allow enough timeslots to capture employees across shifts.



Need a starting point? Start with a survey.

Surveys inform attitudes and barriers. Sample question.

3. If you have not received the flu vaccine in the last five years, what were your barriers to vaccination?
 - a. I don't believe in the vaccine's effectiveness.
 - b. I don't believe the vaccine to be safe.
 - c. After getting the vaccine in the past, I became ill.
 - d. I experienced a severe contraindication in the past.
 - e. Not applicable – I have been vaccinated in the last five years.



Follow the Leader

Leadership notes from the field.

- ❖ Have a raffle for employees who get the flu vaccine.
One facility administrator gives away a television each year – wow!
- ❖ Friendly competition works too...bragging rights!



White House Announces Vaccination Distribution Program for LTC Residents

Pharmacy Partnership for Long-Term Care Program for COVID-19 Vaccination

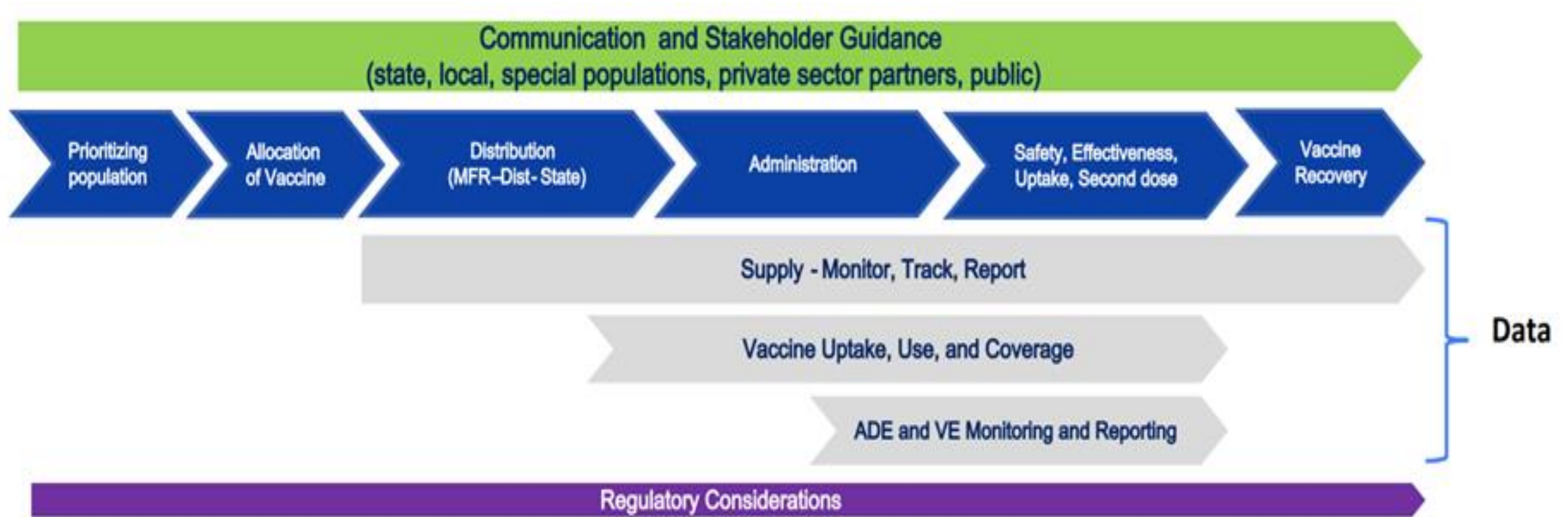
Starting on Monday, October 19, long term care facilities (nursing homes, assisted living communities, ICF/IIDs and other congregate settings for older adults) will have two weeks to register with the CDC on how they want to receive and administer the COVID-19 vaccine when it becomes available.

AHCA Pharmacy Partnership for Long-Term Care Program for COVID-19 Vaccination Office Hours: <https://bit.ly/3dDRLoA>

- Friday, Oct. 23rd at 3 pm ET
- Monday, Oct. 26th at 3 pm ET
- Wednesday, Oct. 28th at 3 pm ET

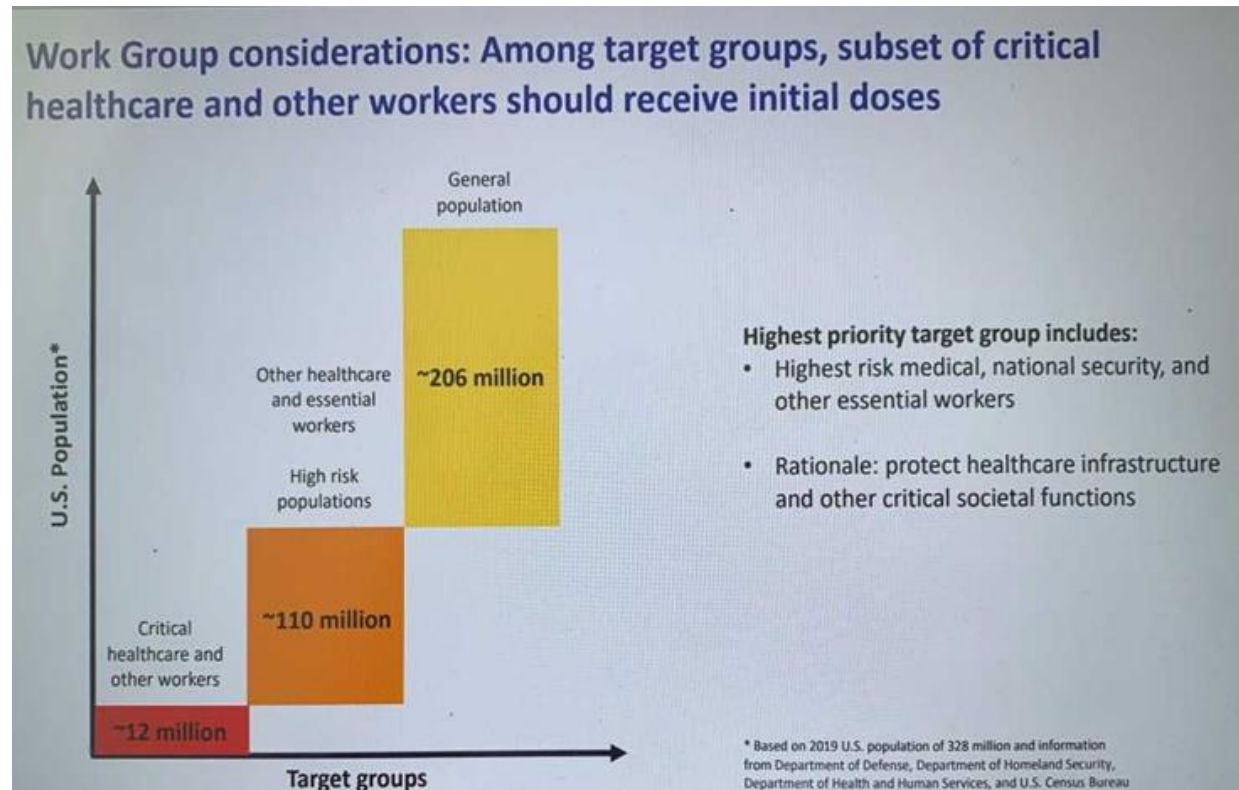


Multiple Critical Components to Vaccine Implementation



Preparing for COVID-19 Vaccine Recommendations

- ▶ Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices (ACIP) to CDC Director
- ▶ Operation Warp Speed reach out to the National Academy of Medicine
- ▶ Generally, public health priorities are to reduce transmission, morbidity, and mortality
- ▶ Initial guidance was for “critical workforce” to minimize disruption to society and economy, while maintaining healthcare capacity
- ▶ After infrastructure workforce, then persons at the highest risk for severe outcomes
- ▶ Equity with COVID-19 vaccine



The Vaccine Life Cycle

safety at every phase

GUIDE

ACIP

ADVISORY
COMMITTEE ON
IMMUNIZATION
PRACTICES

BLA

BIOLOGICS LICENSE
APPLICATION

CDC

CENTERS FOR
DISEASE CONTROL
AND PREVENTION

FDA

FOOD AND DRUG
ADMINISTRATION

IND

INVESTIGATIONAL
NEW DRUG
APPLICATION

VACCINE

DEVELOPMENT

**safety
is a priority
during vaccine
development
+ approval**

PHASE 1
safety

PHASE 2
effectiveness

PHASE 3
safety +
effectiveness

CLINICAL STUDIES / TRIALS

BASIC
RESEARCH

DISCOVERY

PRE-
CLINICAL
STUDIES

IND SUBMITTED

BLA SUBMITTED

FDA
REVIEW

FDA APPROVAL OF 1 NEW VACCINE

ACIP
REVIEW

ACIP RECOMMENDATION

POST-APPROVAL
MONITORING +
RESEARCH

PHASE 4

safety monitoring for
serious, unexpected
adverse events

**safety
continues with
CDC + FDA
safety
monitoring**



**LEARN
MORE**

[FDA VACCINE DEVELOPMENT + APPROVAL PROCESS](http://go.usa.fda.gov/vaccine) <http://go.usa.fda.gov/vaccine>
[CDC VACCINE SAFETY MONITORING + RESEARCH](http://go.usa.gov/xvvNe) <http://go.usa.gov/xvvNe>

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DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH**

Additional Resources

- ▶ The Joint Commission --- [Providing a Safer Environment for Health Care Personnel and Patients](#)
[Providing a Safer Environment for Health Care Through Influenza Vaccination](#)
- ▶ The Joint Commission --- [Strategies for Improving Health Care Personnel Influenza Vaccination Rates](#)
- ▶ CDC: Community Best Practices --- [Examples of Successful Influenza Vaccination Programs in Long-term Care \(LTC\) Settings](#)



Summary

Salient points.

- Create and maintain an employee vaccination policy that includes seasonal influenza.
- Document employee influenza vaccination rates each season.
- Offer flu vaccines on-campus with multiple slots so that employees may have several opportunities to participate.
- Educate all staff on the seasonal flu vaccine. Make an extra effort to educate staff who decline flu vaccines.
- Utilize surveys to assess staff attitudes, barriers, and educational needs.
- Plan for your facility's participation in a future SARS-CoV-2 (COVID) vaccine.
- Documentation is key!



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