

Provider notice: Flu cases rising sharply in Louisiana

November 16, 2022

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As of November 14, influenza activity in Louisiana continues to increase dramatically and already has reached its highest point in the past five years.

Reports to LDH's Office of Public Health through its Influenza-like Illness Surveillance Network (ILINet) showed:

- 10.49 percent of patient visits in Louisiana were due to influenza-like illness
- This is more than twice the regional average of 3.9 percent, and
- Nearly twice the national average of 5.5 percent

LDH is urging healthcare providers to remind their patients to get their flu shot and updated COVID-19 booster for maximum protection during this flu season.

LDH urges healthcare providers to help keep their patients up to date on their COVID-19 and flu vaccinations with the holidays quickly approaching.

State Health Officer Dr. Joe Kanter reminds providers of the importance of making sure their youngest patients get the flu shot.

“The vaccine is especially important for young children. Since 2004-2005, flu-related deaths in children have ranged from 37 deaths to 199 deaths each year in the U.S., and approximately 80% of pediatric flu deaths occurred in children who did not get a flu shot.

This year there have already been five pediatric deaths due to the flu in the U.S. and one in Louisiana,” Dr. Kanter reports.

LDH urges healthcare providers to offer both the flu and COVID shots to their patients. It is safe and convenient to administer both the flu shot and the COVID-19 boosters at the same time. There is no spacing needed between the two vaccinations.

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