Will Influenza be Back? Strategies for Avoiding the “Twindemic”

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Disclosures

- I have no conflicts of interest.
- I do NOT intend to discuss an unapproved or investigative use of a commercial product/device in my presentation.
Disclaimer

- The opinions expressed in this presentation are solely those of the presenter and do not necessarily represent the official positions of the Immunization Action Coalition, or the National Adult and Influenza Immunization Summit
Influenza Vaccination Coverage Rates

Flu Vaccination coverage has traditionally been low
2019-2020 Adult Influenza Vaccination Coverage*

- 48.4% of all adults over 18 years of age vaccinated
- Only 69.8% of those over 65 years of age vaccinated
- Only 50.6% of adults between 50 -64 years of age vaccinated
- Only 42.3% of adults 18-64 years of age vaccinated
  - Only 51.4% of adults 18-64 years of age with at least one high-risk medical condition vaccinated

*https://www.cdc.gov/flu/fluvoxvievw/coverage-1920estimates.htm

IAC recognizes stellar examples of facilities and organizations that have influenza vaccination mandates for their healthcare personnel (HCP), including those working in long-term care facilities (LTCFs). The best way to prevent transmission of influenza to patients and residents is to mandate vaccination of healthcare personnel. The Influenza Vaccination Honor Roll represents the champions who have taken the lead in mandating influenza vaccination within their facilities.

To be included in this honor roll, your facility’s mandate must require influenza vaccination for employees and must include serious measures to prevent transmission of influenza from unvaccinated workers to patients/residents. Such measures might include a mask requirement or reassignment to non-patient-care duties.

## Influenza Vaccination Honor Roll

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Work setting</th>
<th>Coverage Rate</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>More than 1150 organizations!</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Position Statements Policies from leading health organizations on mandatory influenza vaccination</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### Requirements

- On-site vaccination offered more than once
- On-site vaccination offered once
- On-site vaccination offered, but not promoted
- Other HIV prevention programs
- No requirement or promotion

### Percent Vaccinated

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Requirement</th>
<th>Percent Vaccinated</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>On-site vax offered more than once</td>
<td>94</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>On-site vax offered once</td>
<td>89</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Other vax offering</td>
<td>75</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>No requirement or promotion</td>
<td>73</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

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* https://www.cdc.gov/flu/fluavxview/hcp-coverage_1920estimates.htm
Influenza Vaccination Among Pregnant Women by Provider Recommendation or Offer of Vaccination, 2019-20 Season*

Influenza vaccination coverage before and during pregnancy among women pregnant any time after August 1, 2019, by provider recommendation or offer

- Recommended, offered or referred: 75.2%
- Recommended, not offered, not referred: 50.2%
- No recommendation: 20.6%

61.2% vaccinated in 2019-2020 season

* Internet Panel Survey, United States, April 2–April 14, 2020, among women aged 18–49 years who reported being pregnant anytime since August 1, 2019, through the date of the survey
Influenza Vaccine Effectiveness continues to be the tricky messaging point to improve coverage rates
Influenza Vaccine Effectiveness (2019 – 2020 season)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Age group (years)</th>
<th>Influenza positive Total</th>
<th>Vaccinated influenza positive (% vaccinated)</th>
<th>Influenza negative Total</th>
<th>Vaccinated influenza negative (% vaccinated)</th>
<th>Adjusted VE %</th>
<th>Adjusted 95% CI</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>All ages</td>
<td>2722</td>
<td>1140 (42)</td>
<td>6123</td>
<td>3388 (55)</td>
<td>39</td>
<td>(32, 44)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6 mos–8</td>
<td>646</td>
<td>269 (42)</td>
<td>1365</td>
<td>759 (56)</td>
<td>34</td>
<td>(19, 46)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9–17</td>
<td>471</td>
<td>155 (33)</td>
<td>722</td>
<td>324 (45)</td>
<td>40</td>
<td>(22, 53)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>18–49</td>
<td>1056</td>
<td>388 (37)</td>
<td>2202</td>
<td>991 (45)</td>
<td>34</td>
<td>(23, 44)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>50–64</td>
<td>350</td>
<td>180 (51)</td>
<td>998</td>
<td>619 (62)</td>
<td>40</td>
<td>(22, 54)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>≥65</td>
<td>199</td>
<td>148 (74)</td>
<td>836</td>
<td>695 (83)</td>
<td>39</td>
<td>(9, 59)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Preliminary VE against influenza hospitalizations and outpatient visits among adults, by age group, HAIVEN/Flu VE Network – 2019-20

* Final models adjusted for study site, age, sex, race/ethnicity, days from illness onset to specimen collection, timing of illness onset, ≥1 hospitalizations (versus none) in prior year (HAIVEN)
Preliminary VE against pediatric influenza hospitalizations, ED visits - NVSN, 2019-20

- Final models adjusted for study site, age as a continuous variable and calendar time (monthly intervals)
- n values show the total number of influenza positive subjects in each group
Another way to look at influenza vaccine effectiveness – negative outcomes averted

The benefits of flu vaccination 2019-2020

Flu vaccination in the U.S. during the 2019-2020 season prevented an estimated:

- **7.5 million** flu illnesses
  - More than the combined population of Kentucky and Kansas
- **105,000** flu hospitalizations
  - Enough people to fill Michigan Stadium at the University of Michigan
- **6,300** flu deaths
  - Equivalent to saving about 17 lives per day over the course of a year

[Source: immunize.org](https://www.cdc.gov/flu)
Resilience to Influenza with Aging

Graphic courtesy of Janet McIlhaney, MD
Resilience to Influenza with Aging

Are you willing to risk your independence this winter?

Keeping your glass half full!
Exercise, diet, smoking cessation and vaccination

Graphic courtesy of Janet McIlhaney, MD
Leverage flu vaccination to offer COVID-19 vaccination...AND vice versa...
Co-administration of Influenza Vaccines with COVID-19 Vaccines

• Current CDC guidance indicates that COVID-19 vaccines and other vaccines, including influenza, may be co-administered without regard to timing.

• Providers should check current CDC COVID-19 vaccination guidance for updated information concerning co-administration.

https://www.cdc.gov/vaccines/covid-19/info-by-product/clinical-considerations.html
A Call to Action to Protect All Adults from Vaccine-Preventable Disease and Disability

Majority of U.S. Adults Are Missing Routine Vaccinations
Call to Action to Protect All Adults from Vaccine-Preventable Disease and Disability

*https://www.izsummitpartners.org/call-to-action-adult-immunizations/*
National Adult and Influenza Immunization Summit (NAIIS) Call to Action*

Standards for Adult Immunization Practice

- **Assess** the vaccination status of patients at all clinical encounters
- **Identify** vaccines patients need, then clearly **recommend** needed vaccines.
- **Offer** needed vaccines or refer patients to another provider for vaccination.
- **Document** vaccinations given.
- **Measure** vaccination rates of providers’ patient panels.

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Majority of U.S. Adults Are Missing Routine Vaccinations

A Call to Action to Protect All Adults from Vaccine-Preventable Disease and Disability

Aug 23, 2021

Dear Colleagues,

Vaccinations are critical components of routine healthcare for adults. They provide protection against severe illness, disability, and death from 15 different infectious diseases such as influenza, pneumonia, hepatitis B, HPV-related cancers, tetanus, and pertussis (whooping cough). The enormous impact of COVID-19 vaccines on reducing illnesses, hospitalizations, and deaths further demonstrates the immense value of vaccines.

Despite the tremendous benefit of vaccines, at least 3 out of every 4 adults are missing one or more routinely recommended vaccines. Given the recognized health benefits of adult vaccinations and low rates of adult vaccination, providers at the National Adult and Influenza Immunization Summit (NAIIS) members call on providers across the healthcare spectrum to take actions to improve vaccination rates:

- Assess the vaccination status of patients at all clinical encounters, even among clinicians and other providers who do not vaccinate.
  - Utilize a jurisdiction’s immunization information system (IIS) to view patients prior vaccinations in support of needs assessment.
- **Identify** vaccines patients need, then clearly **recommend** needed vaccines.
- Offer needed vaccines or refer patients to another provider for vaccination.
- Document vaccinations given, including the jurisdiction.
  - Many electronic health record (EHR) systems already link to jurisdictional IISs—providers should check with their EHR administrators.
  - Providers not currently utilizing an IIS should contact their local or state immunization program to inquire about enrolling in their jurisdiction’s IIS.
- Measure vaccination rates of providers’ patient panels; making changes to clinic patient flow and taking other steps to address barriers to patient vaccination.

Taking these actions will help protect all across the U.S. against preventable illnesses, disability, and death.

Resources for implementation of the Standards for Adult Immunization Practices can be found at [https://www.cdc.gov/vaccines/hcp/adults/for-practice/increasing-vacc-rates.html](https://www.cdc.gov/vaccines/hcp/adults/for-practice/increasing-vacc-rates.html).

For a list of NAIIS members supporting these Standards, visit [https://www.izsummitpartners.org/call-to-action-adult-immunizations/](https://www.izsummitpartners.org/call-to-action-adult-immunizations/).

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https://www.cdc.gov/vaccines/hcp/adults/for-practice/increasing-vacc-rates.html

*https://www.izsummitpartners.org/call-to-action-adult-immunizations/.
# Effective Strategies to Increase Influenza (and adult!) Vaccination Coverage

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Intervention</th>
<th>Population</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Reducing client out-of-pocket costs for vaccinations</td>
<td>Adults</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Client reminder/recall systems</td>
<td>Adults</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Community-based interventions when implemented in combination</td>
<td>Adults</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Provider reminder systems when used alone</td>
<td>Adults</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Provider assessment and feedback</td>
<td>Adults</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Standing orders</td>
<td>Adults</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Health care-based interventions when implemented in combination</td>
<td>Adults</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Worksite interventions with on-site, reduced-cost, actively promoted influenza vaccinations</td>
<td>Adults, healthcare personnel</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Visit IAC Resources!

- IAC’s Influenza Educational Materials
  - [https://immunize.org/influenza/](https://immunize.org/influenza/)
- Read our publications!
- Visit our websites!
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  - [www.immunizationcoalitions.org](http://www.immunizationcoalitions.org)
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Thank You for your attention!