

Announcement

National Influenza Vaccination Week — December 8–14, 2013

The U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, CDC, state and local health departments, and other health agencies will observe National Influenza Vaccination Week December 8–14, 2013, with educational and promotional activities scheduled across the country. The observance was begun in 2005 to highlight the importance of annual influenza vaccination and to foster greater use of influenza vaccine in the months of December, January, and beyond. As of November 15, 2013, approximately 126 million doses of 2013–14 seasonal influenza vaccine had been distributed to vaccination providers in the United States (1).

The Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices recommends influenza vaccination for all persons aged ≥ 6 months (2). Influenza vaccination is especially important for certain persons at higher risk for influenza-related complications. Persons in high-risk groups include children aged < 5 years, and especially children aged < 2 years; persons with certain chronic health conditions, such as heart disease, asthma, and diabetes;

pregnant women; and adults aged ≥ 65 years. In addition, health-care personnel are at greater risk for acquiring influenza and can transmit it to their patients (3).

Educational materials, web tools, and CDC's planned activities for National Influenza Vaccination Week are available at <http://www.cdc.gov/flu/nivw/index.htm>, whereas general materials regarding influenza vaccination are available at <http://www.cdc.gov/flu/freeresources>. Additional information and resources for health-care professionals are available at <http://www.cdc.gov/flu/professionals>. Current influenza vaccination coverage estimates are available at <http://www.cdc.gov/flu/fluview>.

References

1. CDC. Seasonal influenza vaccine & total doses distributed. Atlanta, GA: US Department of Health and Human Services, CDC; 2013. Available at <http://www.cdc.gov/flu/professionals/vaccination/vaccinesupply.htm>.
2. CDC. Prevention and control of seasonal influenza with vaccines: recommendations of the Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices—United States, 2013–14. *MMWR* 2013;62(No. RR-7).
3. CDC. Immunization of health-care personnel: recommendations of the Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices (ACIP). *MMWR* 2011; 60(No. RR-7).