

Announcements

National Influenza Vaccination Week — December 7–13, 2014

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 7–13, 2014, 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 14, 2014, approximately 139.7 million doses of 2014–15 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, especially those 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>. End of season vaccination coverage estimates for the 2013–14 influenza season are available at <http://www.cdc.gov/flu/fluview>.

References

1. CDC. Seasonal influenza vaccine and total doses distributed. Atlanta, GA: US Department of Health and Human Services, CDC; 2014. Available at <http://www.cdc.gov/flu/professionals/vaccination/vaccinesupply.htm>.
2. Grohskopf LA, Olsen SJ, Sokolow LZ, et al. Prevention and control of seasonal influenza with vaccines: recommendations of the Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices (ACIP)—United States, 2014–15 influenza season. *MMWR Morb Mortal Wkly Rep* 2014;63:691–7.
3. CDC. Immunization of health-care personnel: recommendations of the Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices (ACIP). *MMWR Recomm Rep* 2011;60(No. RR-7).

Recommendation Regarding Obesity Prevention and Control — Community Preventive Services Task Force

The Community Preventive Services Task Force recently posted new information on its website: “Obesity Prevention and Control: Behavioral Interventions that Aim to Reduce Recreational Sedentary Screen Time Among Children.” The information is available at <http://www.thecommunityguide.org/obesity/behavioral.html>.

Established in 1996 by the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, the task force is an independent, nonfederal, uncompensated panel of public health and prevention experts whose members are appointed by the Director of CDC. The task force provides information for a wide range of decision makers on programs, services, and policies aimed at improving population health. Although CDC provides administrative, research, and technical support for the task force, the recommendations developed are those of the task force and do not undergo review or approval by CDC.