

Use these materials for your healthcare personnel influenza vaccination campaign

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First do no harm Protect patients by making sure all staff receive yearly influenza vaccine!

Healthcare employees are not only strongly encouraged to increase their employees' influenza immunization rates, in some instances, their organization's accreditation depends on it. The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) published recommendations for healthcare settings, and the Joint Commission (formerly known as the Joint Commission on Accreditation of Healthcare Organizations (JCAHO)) has established influenza infection control standards.

Big changes have taken place in influenza vaccination of healthcare personnel (HCP). The responsibility for increasing the rates of HCP influenza vaccination is rapidly shifting from the employee to the employer.

What's happened?

At CDC: In February 2006, CDC published "Influenza Vaccination of Health-Care Personnel." These recommendations "apply to HCP in acute care hospitals, ambulatory care settings, and long-term care facilities, physician offices, home care companies, outpatient clinics, and to persons who provide home healthcare and to emergency medical services." They were issued jointly by HCPAC (the Healthcare Infection Control Practices Advisory Committee) and ACIP (the Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices). The summary of the recommendations states: "The CDC is making the recommendation that employers vaccinate employees at the work site at no cost. To obtain a copy of the complete recommendations, go to: www.cdc.gov/mmwr/PDF/rr5102.pdf."

At the Joint Commission: In January 2007, a new infection control standard of the Joint Commission for Accreditation of Healthcare Organizations (JCAHO) was implemented.

Practical resources for vaccinating HCP against influenza

- Centers for Disease Control and Prevention**
 - Get these P4C print materials online:
 - "Standing Orders for Administering Influenza Vaccine," www.cdc.gov/mmwr/PDF/rr5102.pdf. Accessed 10/1/07.
 - "Screening Questionnaire for Injectable Influenza Vaccination" www.immunize.org/catg.d/p4066.pdf
 - "Screening Questionnaire for Intranasal Influenza Vaccination" www.immunize.org/catg.d/p4067.pdf
 - "Declination of Influenza Vaccination" form www.immunize.org/catg.d/p4068.pdf
- The Joint Commission**
 - "Strategies for Implementing Successful Influenza Immunization Programs for Health Care Personnel" at www.jointcommission.org/PatientSafety/InfectionControl/Influenza.asp
- U.S. Dept. of Health & Human Services (HHS)**
 - See the HHS "Health Care Personnel Initiative" at www.hhs.gov/ophsp/programs/initiatives/hcp-cv0401

Summary of CDC's HCPAC /ACIP Recommendations

The committees that developed and endorsed the recommendations for influenza vaccination of healthcare personnel (HCP) are the Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices (ACIP), Internal Medicine, and Public Health. The recommendations are as follows:

- **Educate HCP regarding the benefits of influenza vaccination and the potential health consequences of influenza illness for themselves and their patients, the epidemiology and modes of transmission, diagnosis, treatment, and nonvaccine infection control strategies, and the preventing health-care-associated influenza.**

- **Offer influenza vaccine annually to all eligible HCP to protect staff, patients, and the community. Use of other available vaccine (inactivated [ITV] or live attenuated influenza vaccine [LAIV]) is recommended for eligible persons. During periods when ITV is in short supply, use of LAIV is especially encouraged when feasible for eligible HCP.**

- **Provide influenza vaccination to HCP at the work site and at no cost as one component of employee health programs. Use strategies that have been shown to increase influenza vaccine uptake acceptance, including vaccination clinics, mobile carts, vaccination access during all work shifts, and modeling and support by institutional leaders.**

- **Obtain signed declination from HCP who decline influenza vaccination for reasons other than medical contraindications.**

- **Monitor HCP influenza vaccination coverage and declination at regular intervals during influenza season and provide feedback of ward-, unit-, and specialty-specific rates to staff and administration.**

- **Use the level of HCP influenza vaccination coverage as one measure of a patient-safety quality program.**

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Declination of Influenza Vaccination

My employer or affiliated health facility, _____ has recommended that I receive influenza vaccination to protect the patients I serve.

I acknowledge that I am aware of the following facts:

- Influenza is a serious respiratory disease that kills an average of 36,000 persons and hospitalizes more than 200,000 persons in the United States each year.
- Influenza vaccination is recommended for me and all other healthcare workers to protect our patients from influenza disease, its complications, and death.
- If I contract influenza, I will shed the virus for 24–48 hours before influenza symptoms appear. My shedding the virus can spread influenza disease to patients in this facility.
- If I become infected with influenza, even when my symptoms are mild or non-existent, I can spread severe illness to others.
- I understand that the strains of virus that cause influenza infection change almost every year, which is why a different influenza vaccine is recommended each year.
- I understand that I cannot get influenza from the influenza vaccine.
- The consequences of my refusing to be vaccinated could have life-threatening consequences to my health and the health of those with whom I have contact, including
 - my patients and other patients in this healthcare setting
 - my coworkers
 - my family
 - my community

Despite these facts, I am choosing to decline influenza vaccination right now for the following reasons: _____

I understand that I can change my mind at any time and accept influenza vaccination, if vaccine is available.

I have read and fully understand the information on this declination form.

Signature: _____ Date: _____

Name (print): _____

Department: _____

Reference: CDC: Prevention and Control of Seasonal Influenza with Vaccines—Recommendations of ACIP at www.cdc.gov/mmwr/ProfessionalArticles/pdf/index.htm

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