

Healthcare Workers & Flu Vaccinations: Why Preventing the Flu is Crucial for your Staff

Influenza is responsible for approximately 36,000 annual deaths and more than 200,000 annual hospitalizations! Since healthcare workers are put directly in harm's way during flu season, many employers are requiring their workforce to get an annual flu vaccination to help reduce the spread of infection and the negative outcomes associated with the flu.

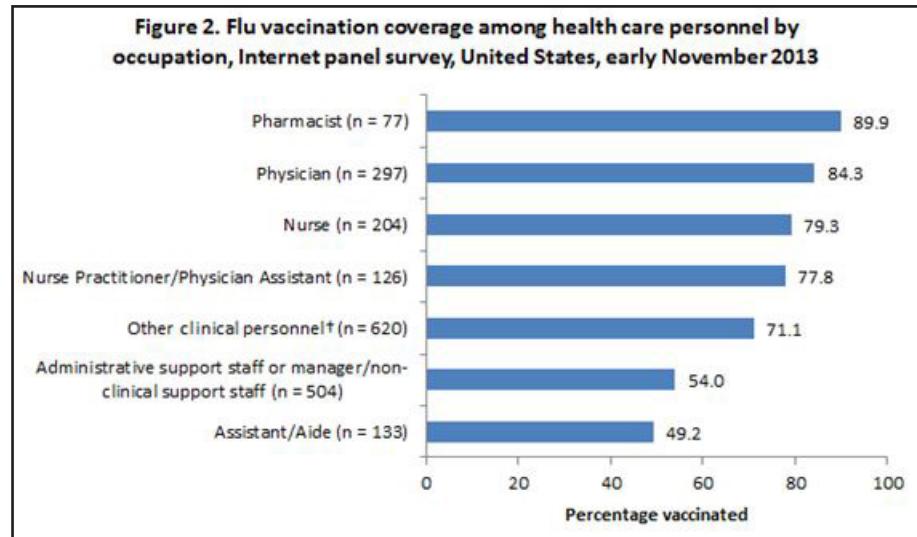
The CDC has published a study based on a variety of facts and statistics on influenza and its effects on healthcare workers. Highlighted below are some important points you may find helpful when deciding whether or not to require your workforce to get vaccinated. Or, if your staff is already required, you can use this as a resource to remind your staff why getting vaccinated is so important.

Flu Vaccinations are Drastically Higher for those with Employers who Require or Recommend it

Recommending the flu shot for your employees can have a dramatically positive outcome. Nearly 30% more healthcare workers will get a flu vaccination if it's simply recommended by their employer. Sometimes all people need is a push or friendly reminder from their employer about the benefits of vaccination for them to take action and get a flu shot. Be sure to encourage and educate your staff on flu vaccination to ensure a healthy, happy flu season at your facility.

Help Nurses Meet the 90% Vaccination Rate for the CDC's Healthy People 2020 Target

Nurses spend much more one-on-one time with patients than most other healthcare workers. Throughout their work day, nurses care for dozens of ill patients, which makes them prone to picking up a variety of germs during their shift. This places nurses at the forefront of danger for contracting the flu. While they may be exhausted after working long, 12-hour shifts, it's important to encourage your nursing staff to get a flu vaccination every year to protect their high-risk patients from other patient's germs, and to keep themselves healthy and strong enough to continue to work during the flu season.



Flu Vaccinations are Lowest among Healthcare Workers in Long-Term Care Facilities (52.6%)

Senior citizens are at greater risk of serious complications from the flu compared to young, healthy adults. More than 90% of seasonal flu-related deaths and more than 60% of seasonal flu-related hospitalizations in the U.S. each year occur in people 65 years and older. Since the majority of long-term care facilities are nursing homes and hospices, healthcare workers employed at these facilities should get the flu shot to protect themselves and the patients under their care.

Flu Vaccinations are also Low among Ambulatory Care Workers (60.5%)

When people call the ambulance for a flu-related illness, they are often in a highly-contagious stage of the virus. This puts ambulatory care workers at a high risk for contracting the flu, so it's critical for them to get vaccinated before they are exposed to so many ill patients while on call. If an ambulatory care worker picks up germs from sick patients, they may pass them on to another patient on a later call.

Vaccinations for Healthcare Workers between 50 and 64 Years of Age Decreased by 7% in 2013–2014

While older healthcare workers are the most susceptible to contracting the flu, they are the only age group who are getting vaccinated less each year! Talk to your older staff members about the importance of vaccination for their age demographic, and explain how they are at a higher risk for getting seriously ill from the flu than people in other age groups are.

PDC Healthcare's complete line of flu stickers for badges and clothing can help your staff meet compliance and encourage patients to get vaccinated today! Call us for more information, or to order custom flu shot stickers at **800.435.4242**