

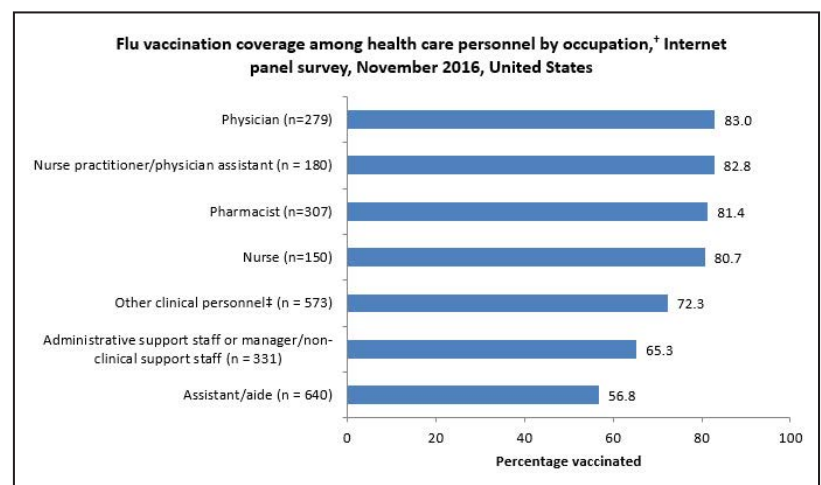
# Healthcare Workers & Flu Vaccinations: Why Preventing the Flu is Crucial for your Staff

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 table and statistics shown below were published by the CDC.

**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. More than 2-times more healthcare workers will get a flu vaccination if it's simply recommended by their employer. Sometimes all people need is a 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 (55%)

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 Highest among Healthcare Personnel in Hospitals (81%)

Hospitals very often care for the sickest of patients, so protecting themselves from the flu was reported to be the most common reason healthcare workers in a hospital setting received the flu vaccination. The second most commonly reported reason for receiving the flu vaccination was that their employers required the vaccinations more than any other healthcare work setting. Many patients that come through hospital doors have compromised health or are at-risk, so requiring employees to get vaccinated helps protect employees as well as patients receiving care.

**PDC Healthcare's line of flu stickers for badges and clothing can help your staff meet compliance and encourage patients to get vaccinated. Call us for more information, or to order custom flu shot stickers at [800.435.4242](tel:800.435.4242) or visit [www.pdchealthcare.com/flustickers](http://www.pdchealthcare.com/flustickers).**