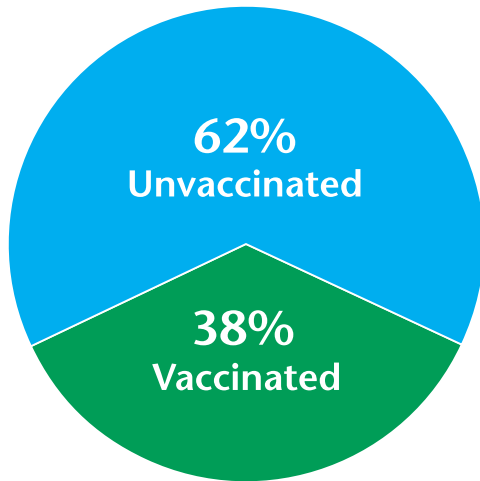




Fact: Despite recommendations from the CDC,* only 38% of health care workers receive an annual influenza immunization¹

Average Annual Influenza Vaccination Rates in Health Care Workers¹



*CDC = Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.

**Protect yourself and patients—
be sure to get your annual
influenza immunization!**



influence
You have the power to beat the flu.®

Facing Facts About Influenza Risk in Health Care Settings

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A guide for health care workers



Fact: Health care workers need to protect their patients

- **Health care workers** such as physicians, nurses, hospital workers, medical technicians, pharmacists, nursing home and chronic care facility staff, and home care workers often care for patients at increased risk for complications from influenza
- **These patients** include¹
 - adults aged ≥65 years
 - residents of nursing homes and chronic care facilities
 - children and adults with chronic medical conditions
 - young people (6 months-18 years) on long-term aspirin therapy
 - women who are pregnant during influenza season
 - children from birth-23 months of age



Fact: Major health organizations advocate annual influenza immunization for health care workers as part of public health and safety programs²

At a recent National Foundation for Infectious Diseases meeting, 24 major medical groups agreed on the goal of annual influenza immunization for health care workers, including the

- American Medical Association
- American Academy of Pediatrics
- American Academy of Family Physicians
- American Hospital Association
- American Nurses Association
- American Society of Health-System Pharmacists
- American Academy of Physician Assistants
- American Association of Occupational Health Nurses



Fact: You cannot contract influenza from the inactivated vaccine

- Inactivated influenza vaccine is manufactured from virus that has been killed. The inactivated vaccine cannot give you influenza!



Fact: Unvaccinated health care workers can be a key cause of influenza outbreaks in health care facilities²

- Health care workers can spread influenza to patients in their care in medical practices, hospitals, long-term care facilities, and other settings³⁻⁵
 - this transmission endangers patients already at increased risk for influenza-related complications, hospitalization, and death
- *Only 1 of every 10 health care workers was vaccinated in a long-term care facility in which 65 residents were infected with influenza in the 1991-1992 influenza season. More than half of these patients developed pneumonia, 19 were hospitalized, and 2 died⁶*
- *Only 15% of the staff had been immunized during a 1998 outbreak in a neonatal intensive care unit in which 19 infants contracted influenza and 1 died⁷*



Fact: Influenza among staff raises costs and disrupts patient care

In an influenza outbreak in 1999, 23% of the staff on a medical unit became ill, resulting in⁸

- 14 staff sick days
- 8 postponed patient admissions
- 11 days of suspended emergency admissions
- \$34,179 in total costs to the hospital



Fact: You must receive influenza immunization every year

- Since each immunization lasts for only one season, you need a new vaccination every influenza season. Every year, a new supply of vaccine is manufactured based on predictions of the influenza strains likely to occur in the coming season