

# Influenza education materials for patients & staff

Free and CDC-reviewed, they're ready for you to download, copy, and use!

### Standing Orders for Administering Influenza Vaccines to Children & Adolescents

**Purpose:** To reduce morbidity and mortality from influenza by vaccinating all children and adolescents who meet the criteria established by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention's Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices.

**Policy:** Under these standing orders, eligible nurses and other healthcare professionals (e.g., pharmacists), where allowed by state law, may administer influenza vaccine to children and adolescents who meet the criteria established by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention's Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices.

**Procedure:**

1. Identify eligible children and adolescents.
2. Screen for contraindications to influenza vaccination.
3. Obtain parental consent.
4. Administer influenza vaccine.
5. Document vaccination.

### Declination of Influenza Vaccination

**Give these people influenza vaccine!**

**WHY?** This year, influenza is again expected to kill more than 36,000 people in the United States.

**Influenza: Questions and Answers**  
Information about the disease and vaccines

**Don't take chances with your family's health – make sure you all get vaccinated!**

**INACTIVATED INFLUENZA VACCINE**

**LIVE, INTRANASAL INFLUENZA VACCINE**  
**WHAT YOU NEED TO KNOW 2008-09**

**1 Why get vaccinated?**  
Influenza ("the flu") is a contagious disease. It is caused by the influenza virus, which can be spread by coughing, sneezing, or nasal secretions. Other illnesses can have the same symptoms and are often mistaken for influenza. But only an illness caused by the influenza virus is really influenza. Anyone can get influenza, but rates of infection are highest among children. For most people, it lasts only a few days. It can cause:

- fever
- sore throat
- chills
- fatigue
- cough
- headache
- muscle aches

Some people get much sicker. Influenza can lead to pneumonia and can be dangerous for people with heart or breathing conditions. It can cause high fever, diarrhea, and seizures in children. On average, 236,000 people are hospitalized every year because of influenza and 36,000 die – mostly elderly.

**2 Live, attenuated influenza vaccine – LAIV (nasal spray)**  
There are two types of influenza vaccines:  
1. Live, attenuated influenza vaccine (LAIV) contains live but weakened (weakened) influenza virus. It is sprayed into the nostrils. 2. Inactivated influenza vaccine, sometimes called the "flu shot," is given by injection. *Attenuated influenza vaccine is described in a separate Vaccine Information Statement.*

Influenza viruses are always changing. Because of this, influenza vaccines are updated every year, and an annual vaccination is recommended. Each year scientists try to match the viruses in the vaccine to those most likely to cause flu that year. When there is a close match the vaccine protects most people from serious influenza-related illness. But even when there is not a close match, the vaccine provides some protection. Influenza vaccine will not prevent "influenza-like" illnesses caused by other viruses.

It takes up to 2 weeks for protection to develop after the vaccination. Protection lasts up to a year.  
LAIV does not contain thimerosal or other preservatives.

### Standing Orders for Administering Influenza Vaccine to Adults

**Purpose:** To reduce morbidity and mortality from influenza by vaccinating all adults who meet the criteria established by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention's Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices.

**Policy:** Under these standing orders, eligible nurses and other healthcare professionals (e.g., pharmacists), where allowed by state law, may administer influenza vaccine to adults who meet the criteria established by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention's Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices.

**Procedure:**

1. Identify eligible adults.
2. Screen for contraindications to influenza vaccination.
3. Obtain patient consent.
4. Administer influenza vaccine.
5. Document vaccination.

### Screening Questionnaire for Injectable Influenza Vaccination

Patient name: \_\_\_\_\_ Date of birth: (mo.) (day) (yr)

### Screening Questionnaire for Intranasal Influenza Vaccination

Patient name: \_\_\_\_\_ Date of birth: (mo.) (day) (yr)

### First do no harm

**Protect patients by making sure all staff receive yearly influenza vaccine!**

Healthcare employers 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 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 employer to the employee.

**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, nursing homes, skilled nursing facilities, physicians offices, urgent care centers, and outpatient clinics, and to persons who provide home healthcare and emergency medical services." They were issued jointly by HICPAC (the Healthcare Infection Control Practices Advisory Committee) and ACP (the Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices). The summary box in the right column presents an overview, including the recommendations that employers vaccinate their employees at the work site at no cost. To obtain a copy of the complete recommendations, go to [www.cdc.gov/od/oc/ohrt/0602.pdf](http://www.cdc.gov/od/oc/ohrt/0602.pdf).

**At JCAHO:** In January 2007, a new infection control standard (IC.04.01) for the Joint Commission on Accreditation of Healthcare Organizations (JCAHO) came effective that requires accredited organizations to offer influenza vaccinations to all staff, volunteer, and licensed independent practitioners who have direct patient contact. The standard is an accreditation requirement for the Critical Access Hospital, Hospital and Long Term Care accreditation programs. To access the standard, go to [www.jcaho.com/2007](http://www.jcaho.com/2007) (the critical access hospital), [www.jcaho.com/2007](http://www.jcaho.com/2007) (the long-term care).

**Why is it happening?**  
The short answer is because HCP influenza vaccination rates remain appallingly low, and unvaccinated HCP are infecting vulnerable patients with influenza. Fewer than 45% of HCP are immunized against influenza each year, even though ACP has urged annual influenza vaccination for HCP since 1991. Further, influenza transmission has been documented among patients in a variety of clinical settings, and infections have been linked to unvaccinated HCP. Clearly, we are doing our patients harm.

**What should your healthcare facility do to comply?**  
The box below are practical online resources healthcare organizations will find valuable in creating influenza vaccination programs for employees.

**Practical resources for vaccinating HCP against influenza**

Centers for Disease Control and Prevention  
Read "Influenza Vaccination of Health-Care Personnel" [www.cdc.gov/od/oc/ohrt/0602.pdf](http://www.cdc.gov/od/oc/ohrt/0602.pdf)  
Access CDC's Influenza web page: [www.cdc.gov/flu](http://www.cdc.gov/flu)

National Influenza Vaccine Summit (NIVS)  
(Co-sponsored by the American Medical Association and CDC). See the NIVS Healthcare Workers home page: [www.preventinfluenza.org/pdf/whrwpaper](http://www.preventinfluenza.org/pdf/whrwpaper)

Massachusetts Medical Society  
See the "2006 Employee Flu Immunization Campaign" [www.massmed.org/flu\\_06](http://www.massmed.org/flu_06)

Immunization Action Coalition  
Get these IAC print materials online:  
Standing Orders for Administering Influenza Vaccine to Adults: [www.immunize.org/catg.d/p0374.pdf](http://www.immunize.org/catg.d/p0374.pdf)  
Screening Questionnaire for Injectable Influenza Vaccination: [www.immunize.org/catg.d/p4066.pdf](http://www.immunize.org/catg.d/p4066.pdf)  
Workers home page: [www.preventinfluenza.org/pdf/whrwpaper](http://www.preventinfluenza.org/pdf/whrwpaper)  
Screening Questionnaire for Intranasal Influenza Vaccination: [www.immunize.org/catg.d/p4067.pdf](http://www.immunize.org/catg.d/p4067.pdf)  
"Declination of Influenza Vaccination" form: [www.immunize.org/catg.d/p4068.pdf](http://www.immunize.org/catg.d/p4068.pdf)

**Summary of CDC's HICPAC / ACP Recommendations**

The committee that developed and endorsed these recommendations included persons with expertise in infectious diseases, infection control, public health, vaccination, 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, in accordance with their level of responsibility in preventing health-care-associated influenza.
- Offer influenza vaccine annually to all eligible HCP to protect staff, patients, and family members and to decrease HCP absenteeism. Use of other available vaccine (inactivated TIV) or live-attenuated influenza vaccine (LAIV) is recommended for eligible persons. During periods when TIV 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 demonstrated to increase influenza vaccine acceptance, including vaccination registries, mobile carts, vaccination access during all work shifts, and modeling and support by institutional leaders.
- Obtain a signed declination form from HCP who decline influenza vaccination for reasons other than medical contraindications.
- Monitor HCP influenza vaccination coverage and declination or refusal intervals during influenza season and provide feedback to staff, units, 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.

- For 8-1/2" x 11" copies of the pieces above, visit IAC's website: [www.immunize.org](http://www.immunize.org)
1. Standing orders for administering influenza vaccines to children & adolescents: [www.immunize.org/catg.d/p3074a.pdf](http://www.immunize.org/catg.d/p3074a.pdf)
  2. Standing orders for administering influenza vaccine to adults: [www.immunize.org/catg.d/p3074.pdf](http://www.immunize.org/catg.d/p3074.pdf)
  3. Screening questionnaire for injectable influenza vaccination: [www.immunize.org/catg.d/p4066.pdf](http://www.immunize.org/catg.d/p4066.pdf)
  4. Screening questionnaire for intranasal influenza vaccination: [www.immunize.org/catg.d/p4067.pdf](http://www.immunize.org/catg.d/p4067.pdf)
  5. First do no harm: Protect patients by making sure all staff receive yearly influenza vaccine: [www.immunize.org/catg.d/p2014.pdf](http://www.immunize.org/catg.d/p2014.pdf)
  6. Declination of influenza vaccination (for healthcare worker refusal): [www.immunize.org/catg.d/p4068.pdf](http://www.immunize.org/catg.d/p4068.pdf)
  7. Give these people influenza vaccine: [www.immunize.org/catg.d/p2013.pdf](http://www.immunize.org/catg.d/p2013.pdf)
  8. Influenza: Questions and Answers: [www.immunize.org/catg.d/p4208.pdf](http://www.immunize.org/catg.d/p4208.pdf)
  9. Don't take chances with your family's health—make sure you all get vaccinated against influenza every year!  
[www.immunize.org/catg.d/p4069.pdf](http://www.immunize.org/catg.d/p4069.pdf)
  10. Federally required Vaccine Information Statements in English and other languages: [www.immunize.org/vis](http://www.immunize.org/vis)
    - Inactivated Influenza Vaccine: What you need to know: [www.immunize.org/vis/2flu.pdf](http://www.immunize.org/vis/2flu.pdf)
    - Live, Intranasal Influenza Vaccine: What you need to know: [www.immunize.org/vis/liveflu.pdf](http://www.immunize.org/vis/liveflu.pdf)