

# VACCINATE ADULTS!

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## Where to Find Resources to Vaccinate Everyone Against Influenza

Starting with the 2010–11 influenza season, CDC is recommending annual influenza vaccination for everyone age 6 months and older. Public demand for vaccination is expected to be high, and manufacturers are planning to produce about 165 million doses of vaccine (see [page 7](#) of this issue).

Following are some excellent resources that will help familiarize you with the new influenza recommendations and available vaccines so you can correctly and efficiently provide influenza vaccine to everyone for whom it is recommended.

### Immunization Action Coalition (IAC)

This issue of *Vaccinate Adults* focuses on the materials needed for the 2010–11 influenza season. Click on titles in the table of contents to the left to access specific resources. Note: IAC's website has an enormous range of online influenza resources. See [page 2](#) to learn about them.

### Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC)

Find a range of authoritative, continually updated influenza information at [www.cdc.gov/flu](http://www.cdc.gov/flu). Access the 2010 ACIP influenza recommendations at [www.cdc.gov/mmwr/pdf/rr/tr5908.pdf](http://www.cdc.gov/mmwr/pdf/rr/tr5908.pdf).

### California Department of Public Health (CDPH)

Just in time for influenza season, CDPH has released “Immunization Techniques: Best Practices with Infants, Children, and Adults,” a new 25-minute DVD on how to administer vaccines (see [page 5](#) for pricing and ordering information).

### Influenza Vaccine Availability Tracking System (IVATS)

IVATS is an activity of the National Influenza Vaccine Summit, a coalition of organizations that works to resolve issues related to influenza disease and vaccine. IVATS allows providers to find out which vaccine distributors have vaccine available. To access IVATS, go to [www.preventinfluenza.org/ivats](http://www.preventinfluenza.org/ivats).

### Families Fighting Flu (FFF)

Composed of families and healthcare practitioners, FFF promotes influenza immunization. Healthcare providers may want to share FFF's video with vaccine-hesitant parents. It features two parents who lost their child to influenza and includes photos of other healthy children who died from influenza. To access the video, go to [www.familiesfightingflu.org/media](http://www.familiesfightingflu.org/media).

## Ask the Experts

IAC extends thanks to our experts, William L. Atkinson, MD, MPH, and Andrew T. Kroger, MD, MPH, medical epidemiologists at the National Center for Immunization and Respiratory Diseases, Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC).

### Vaccine questions

**When a vaccine vial is new and the cap has just been removed, is the rubber stopper sterile, or should it be cleansed with alcohol before inserting the needle?**

The rubber stopper is not sterile. When you remove the protective cap from a vaccine or diluent vial, you should always clean the stopper with an alcohol wipe. This practice is covered in CDC's online vaccine storage and handling toolkit. To access the kit, go to [www2a.cdc.gov/vaccines/ed/shtoolkit](http://www2a.cdc.gov/vaccines/ed/shtoolkit).

### Immunization questions?

- Call the CDC-INFO Contact Center at (800) 232-4636 or (800) CDC-INFO
- Email [nipinfo@cdc.gov](mailto:nipinfo@cdc.gov)
- Call your state health dept. (phone numbers at [www.immunize.org/coordinators](http://www.immunize.org/coordinators))

**We're glad that CDC has made a universal influenza vaccination recommendation to vaccinate everyone 6 months and older. Would you tell us how this came about?**

Prior to the 2010–11 vaccination season, only children ages 6 months through 18 years and adults age 50 years and older were universally recommended for vaccination; recommendations for adults ages 19 through 49 years were targeted to people with specific risk factors, although other adults could be vaccinated if they wanted protection. Collectively, these targeted risk groups made up 85% of the U.S. population. During the 2009 H1N1 outbreak, additional risk groups were identified, such as obese individuals. The new universal vaccination recommendation simplifies previous recommendations, making it easier for healthcare providers to determine whom to vaccinate. The new recommendation also makes it easier for patients to remember to get vaccinated every year.

**Will there be enough influenza vaccine to reach all people ages 6 months and older who want to be protected?**

Supplies will be ample and there will likely be enough vaccine available to protect any person seeking vaccination. Vaccine manufacturers have projected supplies at around 165 million doses for the 2010–11 vaccination season. This is a significant increase in the number of doses of seasonal vaccine compared with any previous year. It should be noted that in the past, vaccine has consistently been left over at the end of each influenza season.

**What is the appropriate month to begin vaccinating patients against influenza?**

You can begin offering vaccine as soon as it becomes available, which is usually mid-to-late summer.

**We have heard that ACIP advises waiting until October before vaccinating residents of long-term care facilities because of concern that vaccinating them before October will cause antibodies to wane, which could result in insufficient protection when the disease hits the community later in the influenza season. Is this correct?**

ACIP no longer advises this. It made this recommendation in the past, but removed it from the influenza recommendations in 2007 because of lack of evidence. Therefore, you should begin vaccinating everyone, including residents of long-

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