

Do No Harm 1st

Flu is a Serious Disease

Influenza causes an average of 36,000 deaths and 114,000 hospitalizations in the United States each year. Influenza and pneumonia, together, represent the fifth leading cause of death for older Americans.

Health Care Workers Are at High Risk of Getting and Spreading Flu

Health care workers are at high risk for acquiring influenza infections due to their exposure to ill patients, as well as their exposure in the community.

Symptom-Based Exposure Control Doesn't Work

Individuals are generally infectious one to four days before symptom onset; however, only 50 percent of infected persons will develop classical symptoms of influenza.

Moreover, individuals remain infectious five or more days after symptom onset. Studies show health care personnel are more likely than staff in other areas to work through, or return to work sooner, during illness, thus increasing the likelihood of transmitting the virus to patients.

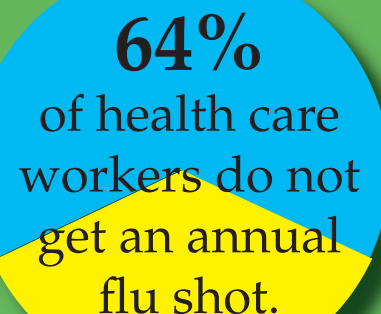
Health Care Workers Should Be Immunized

Vaccination is the primary means of reducing transmission and preventing influenza infection, yet immunization rates among health care workers remain low. Only 36 percent of workers who have direct contact with patients are immunized annually.

Flu Outbreaks Hurt Everyone

Institutional influenza outbreaks can have serious implications for both the patient and health care provider. These events can:

- Put patients at risk.
- Result in or exacerbate existing staff shortages.
- Postpone scheduled admissions.
- Increase health care costs.



64%
of health care
workers do not
get an annual
flu shot.



Get a Flu Shot!