

Mission:

To protect, promote & improve the health of all people in Florida through integrated state, county & community efforts.



Ron DeSantis
Governor

Scott A. Rivkees, MD
State Surgeon General

Vision: To be the Healthiest State in the Nation

- Q: Where can I find guidance on antiviral use for treatment and chemoprophylaxis of influenza?
 - <https://www.cdc.gov/flu/professionals/antivirals/summary-clinicians.htm>

- Q: Availability of Antivirals and Vaccine
 - There are no major market shortage of antiviral drugs for treatment of influenza being reported at this time.
 - Several antiviral treatments are available for treatment of influenza A and B, including oseltamivir (Tamiflu), zanamivir (Relenza), peramivir (Rapivab), and baloxavir marboxil (Xofluza).
 - Two antiviral treatments are offered for influenza A treatment only: amantadine and rimantadine (Flumadine)
 - Vaccine is still available in Florida by health care providers and county health departments (CHDs).
 - Most pharmacies provide influenza vaccines to adults, pharmacies with health-care clinics also offer flu vaccines to children 18 months and older.
 - Advise patients to call their primary care provider, CHD or pharmacy to verify the availability of vaccine.

- Q: How much of an impact does physician vaccination recommendation have on vaccine uptake?
 - People are more likely to get vaccinated if recommended by their providers.
 - For example, pregnant women receiving a recommendation and offer of vaccination by their providers were over 9 times more likely to get vaccinated (52%) vs. women who did not receive a recommendation or offer (6%).
<https://www.cdc.gov/flu/fluview/pregnant-women-nov2017.htm>

- Q: Where can I find guidance on influenza immunization services during the COVID-19 pandemic?
 - <https://www.cdc.gov/vaccines/pandemic-guidance/index.html>

Talking points when discussing flu with patients

- Q: Is it too late to get vaccinated against flu?
 - No. It is important to get vaccinated as early in the season as possible, it takes two weeks for the vaccine to kick in.

- Q: How long does a flu vaccine protect an individual from getting the flu?
 - The flu vaccine is safe, and yearly vaccination provides the best protection against the flu throughout flu season. The flu virus changes from year to year so the flu vaccine also gets an annual update. For that reason, it is important for everyone 6 months of age and older to get a flu vaccine every flu season.

- Q: Can the flu vaccine provide protection even if the flu vaccine is not a “good” match?
 - Yes, antibodies made in response to vaccination with one flu virus may provide protection against different, but related flu viruses.
 - Even if you do get the flu after getting vaccinated, a yearly flu vaccine helps in protecting against serious complications such as hospitalization and death.

- A 2017 study published in *Pediatrics* showed that flu vaccination can significantly reduce influenza pediatric mortality by half (51%) among children with underlying high-risk medical conditions and nearly two-thirds (65%) among healthy children (www.cdc.gov/media/releases/2017/p0403-flu-vaccine.html).
 - A 2017 study published in *Clinical Infectious Diseases* showed that flu vaccination reduced deaths, intensive care unit (ICU) admissions, ICU length of stay, and overall duration of hospitalization among hospitalized flu patients (www.cdc.gov/flu/spotlights/vaccine-reduces-severe-outcomes.htm).
 - Vaccinated adults were 52-79% less likely to die than unvaccinated flu-hospitalized patients.
 - Vaccinated adults 18-49 years of age and 65 years of age and older hospitalized from flu were 37% less likely to be admitted to the ICU than those who were not vaccinated.
 - According to Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) estimates, flu vaccination during the 2019-2020 season prevented an estimated 7.52 million illnesses, 3.69 million medical visits, 105,000 hospitalizations, and 6,300 deaths (<https://www.cdc.gov/flu/about/burden-averted/2019-2020.htm>).
 - A 2018 study published in *Clinical Infectious Diseases* shows that flu vaccination reduced a pregnant woman's risk of being hospitalized with the flu by an average of 40% over the course of 6 seasons (<https://www.cdc.gov/media/releases/2018/p1011-flu-vaccine-reduces-risk-pregnant-women.html>).
- Q: Can I receive the flu and COVID-19 vaccine simultaneously?
 - As of January 6, 2021 the CDC recommends administering the mRNA COVID-19 vaccine alone, with a minimum interval of 14 days before or after administration with any other vaccine. Visit the following website for the most up-to-date and complete guidance: www.cdc.gov/vaccines/covid-19/info-by-product/clinical-considerations.html#Coadministration
- Q: Can you become sick with flu and COVID-19?
 - Yes, it is possible to have both illnesses at the same time, but coinfection of both viruses is still be studied.