

Increasing Flu Vaccination Rates: Ages 6 months to 9 years



Division of
Immunization

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Flu Vaccines for Children

The flu can be dangerous for children. Each year millions of children are infected seasonal flu, and thousands are hospitalized. Complications from the flu in children can include pneumonia, dehydration, worsening of long-term medical problems (like heart disease or asthma), brain dysfunction, sinus problems and ear infections, and even death.

As a healthcare professional, your recommendation is a strong determinant of whether your patients receive an influenza vaccine.

Resources

- [CDC Flu Vaccine for Children](#)
- [CDC Flu Prevention](#)
- [CDC Flu Vaccine Recommendation](#)
- [IDOH Influenza page](#)

Making a Strong Recommendation: **SHARE**

Share why an influenza vaccine is right for the patient given their age, health status, lifestyle, occupation or other risk factors.

Highlight positive experiences with influenza vaccines (personal or in your practice), as appropriate, to reinforce the benefits and strengthen confidence in flu vaccination.

Address patients' questions and any concerns about influenza vaccines such as side effects, safety and vaccine effectiveness in plain and understandable language.

Remind patients that influenza vaccines protect them and their loved ones from serious influenza illness and complications.

Explain the potential costs of getting influenza, including potential serious health effects for the patient and time lost (such as missing work or family obligations), financial costs, and potentially spreading flu to more vulnerable family and friends.

Special Vaccination Instructions: Some children aged 6 months to 8 years need 2 doses of the flu vaccine. Children in this age group getting vaccinated for the first time and those who have only previously received one dose of flu vaccine should get two doses of vaccine this season. It is recommended that those children receive the first dose as soon as vaccine is available because the second dose needs to be given at least 4 weeks after the first.

For additional information on Flu Vaccine:

[https://www.in.gov/health/immunization/
immunization-resources/](https://www.in.gov/health/immunization/immunization-resources/)



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