



Weekly Flu News



COVID-19 vs. Flu: How Do They Compare? Part 2; [Insights on Influenza](#)

With flu season around the corner, it's important to understand how these two viruses, COVID-19 and flu, can be similar and different. Read our latest blog post about prevention, high-risk populations, common symptoms, and presentation in children.



Flu Vaccination Coverage, United States, 2019–20 Influenza Season; [CDC](#)

Everyone six months and older, with rare exception, should receive an annual flu vaccine. Across all age ranges, approximately 52% of the US population got vaccinated against flu last season. This is the highest vaccine coverage reported since CDC recommended universal vaccination in 2010. However, this means that nearly half of all people in the U.S. were not vaccinated.



Estimated Influenza Illnesses, Medical visits, and Hospitalizations Averted by Vaccination in the United States — 2019–2020 Influenza Season; [CDC](#)

CDC estimates that influenza vaccination during the 2019–2020 influenza season prevented 7.52 million illnesses, 3.69 million medical visits, 105,000 hospitalizations, and 6,300 deaths associated with influenza. These numbers show the benefits of vaccination, but highlight that higher vaccination rates could deliver even greater benefits to the public's health. When more people are vaccinated against flu, there are fewer illnesses, medical visits, hospitalizations, and deaths due to influenza.



Don't Wait For A COVID-19 Vaccine To Get Your Shots — You Need A Flu Shot Now; [NPR](#)

People want to know what's next with the COVID-19 vaccine. While we can't predict the future, we can remind you that all of your regular vaccines can keep you healthy — and maybe even save your life. The flu is not the common cold. It's much deadlier, and the influenza virus is constantly adapting to outsmart our treatments and vaccines. That's why getting the flu vaccine every single year is so important: the vaccine is designed to help your body fight off the strains that are most likely to make you sick this year.



Influenza and Tdap Vaccination Coverage Among Pregnant Women; [CDC](#)

Maternal vaccination with influenza and Tdap vaccines can decrease the risk for severe influenza and pertussis among pregnant women and their infants. During the 2019–20 flu season, 61.2% of pregnant women received influenza vaccination, 56.6% received Tdap during pregnancy, and 40.3% received both vaccines. Influenza vaccination coverage among Black and Hispanic women increased, but there are still large disparities in coverage. Given that 40% of pregnant women do not receive influenza and Tdap vaccines, this leaves moms and their infants more vulnerable to influenza and pertussis infections, which can lead to hospitalization and death.



Influenza Vaccination Coverage Among Health Care Personnel; [CDC](#)

It's important for healthcare providers to get vaccinated against flu to protect patients who are susceptible to flu hospitalizations and death. Overall, 80.6% of HCP reported receiving influenza vaccination during the 2019–20 season. Coverage was higher among providers who were required by their employer to be vaccinated (94.4%) than among those whose employer did not require vaccination (69.6%). Improving these rates, especially among assistants and aides, will allow providers to protect those they care for.



Amid COVID-19 pandemic, less than 60% in U.S. plan to get flu vaccine; [UPI](#)

Less than 60% of people in the United States plan to be vaccinated against the flu this winter, according to a survey released Thursday by the National Foundation for Infectious Diseases. If this poll is representative, this number would be more than the 52% of Americans who got vaccinated against flu last season. However, increased vaccination above 60% is likely necessary to contain flu activity amid the pandemic.



Fauci Says the Flu Is Not 'Trivial' and to Get Your Flu Shot; [Healthline](#)

The 2020–2021 flu season will largely depend on how much of the population gets vaccinated against the flu and how strictly we adhere to safety precautions like social or physical distancing, avoiding indoor gatherings, wearing face masks, and practicing good hand hygiene. We don't yet have a vaccine for COVID-19, but we do have a good tool against influenza. "It is a serious disease; it is not trivial. Let's do what we can with the tools that we have, and we have a good tool in an influenza vaccine," Fauci said.

Families Fighting Flu Updates

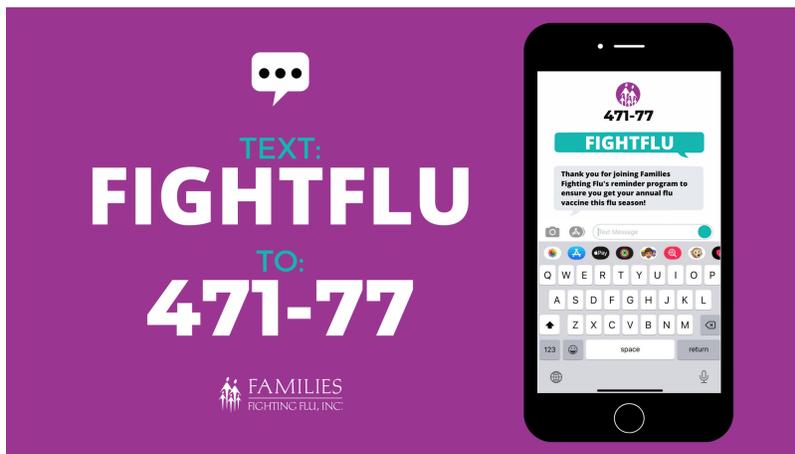
Planning a mobile flu clinic? Check out Flu+Force!

FLU+FORCE is a collection of trusted information by category in one location. It can help plan a mobile flu clinic with the intent to increase vaccination rates by offering additional opportunities for vaccination, including:

- + Planning and Process Documents
- + Vaccine Storage and Handling Guidelines
- + Patient Communication Templates
- + Patient Education Materials
- + Vaccine Documentation

For these and other resources, check out: FluForce.com

Need a reminder to get your annual flu vaccine? Text FIGHTFLU to 47177 to sign up for key flu and flu vaccine information to stay healthy this season!



Make the Families Fighting Flu [Vaccination Promise!](#) Commit to getting your annual flu vaccine and sign your name on the Promise Wall.



Are you interested in flu education and advocacy? Become a [Flu Champion](#) in your community to inform others about the seriousness of flu and the importance of flu prevention and treatment.

We have new materials available for this flu season! Visit our website to view our [new educational materials](#) and get digital downloads and/or place an order for print copies today!



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