



NATIONAL INFLUENZA VACCINE SUMMIT NEWSLETTER

NATIONAL INFLUENZA VACCINATION WEEK (NIVW)

December 8–14, 2008

U.S. Department of Health & Human Services

Medical Professional Organizations and Others
Please disseminate widely to all of your members and others, as appropriate.

Monday is the Start of National Influenza Vaccination Week!

To help raise awareness of the seriousness of influenza and the importance of continuing influenza vaccinations throughout December, January, and beyond, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, the National Influenza Vaccine Summit, and other partners have designated December 8–14 as **National Influenza Vaccination Week (NIVW)**.

Although influenza season usually does not peak in the U.S. until January or February, the number of people getting vaccinated tends to decrease substantially after November. Because many people who should get the influenza vaccine this year are still unvaccinated, CDC is encouraging public health partners and health care providers to conduct vaccination clinics and other activities that promote influenza vaccination—during NIVW and throughout the rest influenza season.

Each year, on average, 5–20% of people in the U.S. are infected with influenza virus; more than 200,000 of them are hospitalized from influenza complications, and an estimated 36,000 die from those complications. Influenza vaccination is the best way to prevent influenza and its potentially severe complications. CDC recommends annual influenza vaccination for the following groups:

- Children 6 months of age up to their 19th birthday
- Pregnant women
- People 50 years of age and older
- People with certain chronic medical conditions, such as asthma, diabetes, or heart disease
- Adults who live with and/or care for:
 - Children less than 5 years of age, especially children less than 6 months of age, because they are at high risk for influenza-related complications but are too young to get the vaccine;
 - Adults 50 years of age or older; or

- Children or adults with chronic health conditions;
- Health care workers
- Anyone else who wants to decrease their risk of influenza

During NIVW, several days have been set aside to highlight the importance of vaccination for particular groups.

Tuesday, December 9, has been set aside as **Children's Vaccination Day**. Each year, about 20,000 children less than 5 years of age are hospitalized because of complications from influenza. This event will help raise awareness about the importance of vaccinating children and their friends and family against the disease.

Older Americans are also at risk of serious complications from influenza. Thursday, December 11, has been designated **Seniors' Vaccination Day**, a reminder that older Americans benefit from getting vaccinated.

In addition, Friday, December 12, has been designated **Health Care Worker Vaccination Day**, because the vaccination of health care workers continues to be a cornerstone of influenza prevention efforts.

Additional Resources

- Learn more about National Influenza Vaccination Week and share information on your organization's NIVW activities at the interactive [NIVW Web site](#).
- Find information and other resources for parents, health care professionals, and others at [CDC's influenza Web site](#) (also available in [Spanish](#)).
- CDC has [free influenza materials](#) for health care professionals to print and distribute.