

**STATE OF NEW HAMPSHIRE**  
**DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES**  
***DIVISION OF PUBLIC HEALTH SERVICES***  
***BUREAU OF INFECTIOUS DISEASE CONTROL***  
***IMMUNIZATION PROGRAM***

**Lori A. Shibinette**  
**Commissioner**

**Lisa M. Morris**  
**Director**

**29 HAZEN DRIVE, CONCORD, NH 03301**  
**603-271-4482 1-800-852-3345 Ext. 4482**  
**Fax: 603-271-3850 TDD Access: 1-800-735-2964**  
**[www.dhhs.nh.gov](http://www.dhhs.nh.gov)**

October 12, 2020


Dear New Hampshire Healthcare Partners,

In light of the current coronavirus pandemic, it will be more important than ever to ensure high influenza vaccine coverage rates in the 2020-21 season. With additional demand for influenza vaccine expected this season, we would like your organization to consider how to broaden your current scope of services. Please consider populations that might not otherwise be vaccinated and ways to create additional immunization opportunities either within your practice or by working with other community partners.

**Vaccination rates\* remain well below optimal levels:**

- 63%** children 6 months–17 years
- 45%** adults 18+ years
- 68%** adults 65+ years
- 81%** healthcare personnel
- 54%** pregnant women

\*Estimates from the 2018–19 influenza season.  
Source: CDC FluVaxView



While the severity of flu seasons vary, flu always brings serious consequences. In the 2018-19 season (classified as moderate severity), CDC estimates 35 million people got sick with influenza, 16 million people went to a health care provider for their illness, there were 490,600 hospitalizations, and 34,200 deaths from influenza.

Consider these statistics with our current pandemic numbers and the burden on our already stressed health care systems. Increasing flu vaccination uptake saves healthcare resources for COVID-19 and other conditions. It’s never been more important to increase annual flu vaccine distribution.

Now is the time to recommend flu vaccine. Continue to vaccinate throughout the flu season, providing extra outreach to those at highest risk of severe COVID-19 or severe influenza –and to everyone who could spread it.

The CDC and the NH Immunization Program (NHIP) have flu vaccine resources and messaging to support to you as you promote vaccine uptake throughout the influenza season.

The NHIP Influenza toolkit was created to work in partnership with you to ensure we are all sharing the same message about the importance of the flu vaccine. Feel free to include the resources provided to assist your practice to get the message out about the flu vaccine. Don’t forget to use the following hashtags on social media:

- #FightFluNH
- #FluFreeNH

The CDC has developed *Guidance for Planning Satellite, Temporary, or Off-Site Vaccination Clinics* found here <https://www.cdc.gov/vaccines/hcp/admin/mass-clinic-activities/index.html> to help as you plan for flu clinics. Included is guidance for storage/handling, administration, and documentation as well as pre-clinic, during clinic, and post-clinic activities. Resources include considerations for vaccinating during a pandemic, such as physical distancing, PPE, enhanced sanitation efforts.

Additional CDC influenza resources can be found here: <https://www.cdc.gov/flu/index.htm>

Flu vaccination for anyone without contraindications, 6 months and older, is more important than ever.

Thank you for all your efforts!

Immunization Section (NH Immunization Program)  
Bureau of Infectious Disease Control  
Division of Public Health Services  
NH Department of Health & Human Services  
[immunization@dhhs.nh.gov](mailto:immunization@dhhs.nh.gov)  
603-271-4482