



2011-2012

Seasonal Influenza and Pneumonia Information

All Health Choice Providers are required to provide Seasonal Flu and Pneumonia Immunizations to assigned Health Choice Arizona and Health Choice Generations members or to refer members for needed vaccinations if they are unable to provide these vaccines. This is the perfect time to start talking with your patients about getting the flu shot, and anytime is appropriate to discuss the pneumonia vaccination with patients who qualify.

1. CDC and ACIP recommendations for seasonal influenza

The CDC and ACIP is recommending universal influenza vaccination for all persons 6 months of age and older. Vaccination efforts should begin as soon as vaccine is available and continue throughout the influenza season. The 2011-2012 flu vaccine will protect against one influenza A (H3N2) virus, one influenza A (H1N1) virus, and one influenza B virus. While everyone is recommended to receive the influenza vaccine, high-risk patients are more likely to get flu-related complications if they get sick from influenza.

The high risk target groups are:

- Children younger than 5, but especially children younger than 2 years old
- Pregnant women
- People who live with or care for those at high risk for complications from flu
- Healthcare and emergency medical services personnel
- Adults 65 years and older
- Persons who have medical conditions such as asthma, lung disease, heart disease, blood disorders, kidney disorders, liver disorders, metabolic disorders, diabetes, and obesity.
- Persons who have a weak immune system due to disease or medication such as HIV, AIDS, or cancer, or those on chronic steroids.

Who should not be vaccinated against seasonal flu:

- People who have a severe allergy to chicken eggs.
- People who have had a severe reaction to an influenza vaccination in the past.
- People who developed [Guillian-Barré syndrome \(GBS\)](#).
- People who have a moderate or severe illness with fever should wait to get vaccinated until their symptoms lessen.

a. HCA Flu Clinics

Use the links to find a Mollen Clinic or Take Care Clinic location by zip code:

- **Please note:** Take Care Clinics are for adults only.

<http://www.mollen.com/>

<http://www.takecarehealth.com/>

b. Resources

- Community Information & Referral has a dedicated flu hotline at 1-877-764-2670, 602-324-2814 or visit <http://www.cir.org/flu/>
- Stop The Spread at <http://www.stophespreadaz.org/>
- Arizona Department of Health Services at <http://www.azdhs.gov/>
- U.S. Department of Health & Human Services at <http://www.flu.gov/>
- Centers for Disease Control and Prevention at <http://www.cdc.gov/flu/>

c. Number of Doses Needed

ACIP recommendations on the inactivated influenza (TIV) vaccine and live attenuated influenza vaccine (LAIV) can be found at:

<http://www.cdc.gov/mmwr/preview/mmwrhtml/mm6033a3.htm#Tab>

2. CDC and ACIP Recommendations for pneumonia vaccination:

<http://www.cdc.gov/vaccines/vpd-vac/pneumo/default.htm>

* For more detailed information on immunizations, visit www.cdc.gov/vaccines

** To get immunization information by phone, call the **CDC Information Contact Center** at: (800) CDC-INFO (1-800-232-4636) and 888-232-6348 (TTY)

3. Immunization Coverage for Children and Adults

a. AHCCCS Members under the age of 21

- Vaccines are available for order from the Vaccines for Children Program (VFC) for children under 19 years of age. VFC information can be found at: <http://www.cdc.gov/vaccines/programs/vfc/providers/elig-scrn-rec-doc-req.htm>
- Must bill with “SL” modifier to identify that the immunization is part of the VFC program

b. Members Age 19 and older

- HCA reimburses for any vaccines where the CPT code for that vaccine is open (covered) under the AHCCCS program and when deemed to be medically necessary by the health care provider.
- **Please note:** AHCCCS benefit changes effective 10/01/2010 do not affect adult HCA member vaccines. Providers can administer medically necessary vaccinations, including influenza and pneumonia vaccine to adult HCA members.

c. HCG Members

- Under HCG Medicare Advantage, Influenza vaccination is a covered **Part B** benefit and is not covered under the part D (drug) benefit.