PROTECT CHILDREN FROM INFLUENZA

The American Academy of Pediatrics (AAP) and the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) emphasize the importance of influenza vaccination and treatment in children at highest risk.

Share key messages with your colleagues.

1. GET VACCINATED

This season’s flu vaccine includes either 3 strains (trivalent) or 4 strains (quadrivalent). These are strains that are anticipated to circulate in the US this flu season. There is no preference for trivalent or quadrivalent vaccine.

The trivalent vaccine protects against 1 strain from last year and 2 new strains. These are:
- Influenza A (H1N1)
- Influenza A (H3N2) - New
- Influenza B - New

The quadrivalent vaccine has the same 3 strains as the trivalent vaccine and a B strain (of the opposite lineage).

Mandatory vaccination programs for health care personnel achieve higher immunization rates. Put the health of the patients first!

2. SAFEGUARD INFANTS AND CHILDREN AT RISK

Urge vaccination of people who care for infants younger than 6 months of age (who are too young to receive the seasonal flu vaccine). This “cocooning” reduces the risk of contagion.

Talk with parents to have a plan to ensure that children with chronic medical conditions are vaccinated as soon as flu vaccine is available and are treated early with antiviral medications if they become ill. Special effort should also be made to vaccinate women who are pregnant, considering pregnancy, in the postpartum period, or are breastfeeding.

3. PARTNER WITH CHILD CARE PROVIDERS

Most young children are enrolled in Head Start or other early education and child care settings. Reach out to child care providers to discuss the importance of influenza vaccination and infection control practices.

4. KEEP CURRENT ON POLICY RECOMMENDATIONS

A) AAP Recommendations for Prevention and Control of Influenza in Children, 2015-2016
B) AAP Influenza Immunization for All Health Care Personnel: Keep it Mandatory
C) CDC Prevention and Control of Influenza with Vaccines: Recommendations of the Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices, United States, 2015-16 Influenza Season

We appreciate everything you do to advocate and care for children!

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