December Immunization Newsletter
National Influenza Vaccination Week Spotlight

It’s National Influenza Vaccination Week!

December 1–7 marks this year’s National Influenza Vaccination Week. As family and friends are gathering for the holidays, flu activity is increasing. It is not too late to vaccinate your patients!

As a health practitioner, your strong recommendation is a critical factor that affects whether your patients get an influenza vaccine. ACOG and the CDC encourage using the SHARE method to make a strong vaccine recommendation and provide important information to help patients make informed decisions about vaccinations.

S  Share the reasons why the influenza vaccine is right for the patient given their age, health status, lifestyle, occupation, or other risk factors.

H  Highlight positive experiences with influenza vaccines (personal or in your practice) as appropriate to reinforce the benefits and strengthen confidence in influenza vaccination.

A  Address patient questions and any concerns about the influenza vaccine, including side effects, safety, and vaccine effectiveness, in plain and understandable language.

R  Remind patients that influenza vaccines protect them and their loved ones from serious influenza illness and influenza-related complications.

E  Explain the potential costs of getting influenza, including serious health effects, time lost (such as missing work or family obligations), and financial costs.

Visit the CDC’s web page for more tools to help you communicate with patients about the flu vaccine.

ACOG’s Influenza Resources

ACOG has a variety of online resources for providers and patients. Our Immunization for Women website contains up-to-date information and resources about influenza and influenza vaccines.
U.S. Influenza Surveillance Report Update

According to the FluView report for week 46, ending November 16, 2019, seasonal influenza activity in the United States continues to increase. Influenza-like illness (ILI) caused 2.5% of patient visits reported through the U.S. Outpatient Influenza-like Illness Surveillance Network. Nationally, ILI was above the baseline of 2.4% for the first time. Puerto Rico, Alabama, Arkansas, Georgia, Mississippi, Nevada, South Carolina, and Texas experienced high ILI activity.

Call for Nominations: ACOG Immunization Champion Award 2020

ACOG’s Immunization Champion Award recognizes members who make a significant contribution toward improving immunization rates in their communities or practice or at the national level through their work in maternal and adult immunization.

The ACOG Immunization Award honors up to three practicing ACOG members. Each nominee will be evaluated on their leadership, innovation, collaboration, and educational activities. The winners will receive a $1,500 honorarium and an award to display in their office and will be highlighted in ACOG’s Immunization Newsletter, which is emailed to all ACOG members. Awardees will also be added to ACOG’s Immunization Champion Honor Roll.

We will accept nominations until February 28, 2020, and will select and notify the winners by April 1, 2020.

Submit your nomination today!
United Against the Flu Campaign

The American Hospital Association launched the United Against the Flu campaign in coordination with national health care organizations, including the CDC, to highlight the importance of getting vaccinated.

The campaign targets health care practitioners and patients, especially pregnant women, young children, and the elderly, to encourage everyone to receive their flu shot. This campaign also aims to correct misinformation such as the myth that a flu shot can actually cause the flu or that the vaccinations are dangerous for pregnant women.

Watch the American Hospital Association's video dispelling common misconceptions surrounding the flu vaccine.

You Call the Shots: Vaccine Administration Training Course

Take advantage of You Call the Shots, an interactive, web-based immunization training course from the CDC. This course features a series of modules identifying vaccine-preventable disease and explains the latest guidelines and recommendations for vaccine use. Each course offers continuing education, self-test practice questions, and reference and resource materials.

Visit the CDC’s education and training page for more information.