
Seasonal Influenza Vaccination: Nursing Perspective Advocacy and Counseling

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American Nurses Association

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Seasonal Influenza Vaccination HCP

- Estimated vaccination coverage of HCP remains **less than 50%**.
- Educational efforts since 1981
- Asymptomatic transmission
- Vaccination of HCP reduces:
 - transmission of influenza in health-care settings
 - staff illness and absenteeism
 - influenza-related morbidity and mortality among persons at increased risk for severe influenza illness.

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Background of ANA Views:

- Committed to advocating for the health of registered nurses, their patients and families
- ANA **strongly urges** all RNs involved in direct patient care to receive the seasonal influenza vaccination annually
 - ANA advocates for 100% vaccination rates

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ANA Campaigns

- 2005-“Everyone Deserves a Shot at Fighting Flu”
 - Goal was to identify myths and barriers
- 2006/2007-“Best Practices in Seasonal Influenza Vaccination”
 - Goal was to determine who had successful programs and provide tools
- 2007/2008-“Best Practices in Seasonal Influenza Vaccination”
 - Continued efforts

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Nurses' Role

- Leadership
- Advocacy
 - Patients
 - HCP
- Education
- Assessment of immunization status of patients
- Partnerships/Collaboration
- Administration
- Role models

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American Nurses Association Policy Statements

- Seasonal Influenza Vaccination for Registered Nurses (2006)
- Pandemic and Seasonal Influenza (2006)
 - Nurses role in relation to patient transmission
 - Non-vaccine control measures
 - Stable manufacturing, supply, and equitable distribution
 - Educational efforts
- Adult Immunization (2002)
 - Vaccine preventable disease
 - Vaccine underutilization
- Promotion and Disease Prevention (1995)
 - Impact of infectious disease on health

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Seasonal Influenza Vaccination for Registered Nurses (2006)

- Position on Seasonal Influenza Vaccination for RNs
- Supports aggressive and comprehensive influenza vaccination programs for RNs and HCP that aim for 100% vaccination rates
 - provides an “opt out” with the completion of an informed declination form
 - education
 - free and accessible
- Consistent with legal rights including rights under labor law
- Recognizes Healthy People 2010 target of 90% adult vaccination rates

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Communication and Education

- Develop a campaign slogan and logo.
- Provide communication and education via a wide array of tactics including mass emails, newsletters, conferences, health fairs, staff meetings, mandatory events, stickers, posters, flyers, bulletin boards, presentations, intranet, and screen savers.
- Mandatory computer-based learning modules.

Planning and Tracking

- Develop a multidisciplinary group on the planning committee such as Nursing leadership, Employee Health, Epidemiology, Infection Control, Pharmacy, Risk Management and Hospital Administration.
- Track in an ongoing database providing results to department managers and key leadership.
- Consider using mandatory declination forms to identify reasons to refuse vaccine.
- Conduct a post-campaign evaluation including recommendations for the following influenza season.

Administrative

- Offer vaccination at a variety of times including all shifts and weekends, during work hours.
- Extend convenience by using mobile carts in high traffic areas such as the cafeteria, at health fairs, conferences, meetings, and on nursing units.
- Designate nurses on each unit to provide vaccination to co-workers.
- Provide vaccination free of cost to all employees, including part-time and contract as well as volunteers.
- Provide incentives such as candy, t-shirts, stickers, prizes or competition between departments.

References

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- CDC. Prevention and control of influenza: recommendations of the Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices (ACIP). *MMWR* 2007; 56:1-54.
- CDC. Respiratory hygiene/cough etiquette in healthcare settings. Atlanta, GA: US Department of Health and Human Services, CDC; 2005. Available at: <http://www.cdc.gov/flu/professionals/infectioncontrol/respihygiene.htm>

Call (800) 274-4ANA and ask for information about joining your state nurses association.


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Best Practices in Seasonal Influenza Immunization Programs for Health Care Personnel



Occupational Health & Safety Series

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Thank you!
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