



The New Jersey Department of Health would like to remind all healthcare professionals about both the importance of receiving an annual flu vaccine, as well as the importance of recommending the vaccine to their patients. It's likely that flu viruses and the virus that causes COVID-19 will both be spreading this fall and winter, making it more important than ever that ALL healthcare workers get a flu vaccine! Getting a flu vaccine will not protect against COVID-19; however, the vaccine can reduce flu illnesses, hospitalizations, and can help to conserve potentially scarce healthcare resources during the pandemic.

It is important to note that healthcare workers include those who are directly and indirectly involved in patient care (e.g. dietary and housekeeping staff). Getting a flu vaccine is the best way to protect yourself, family, friends, and patients - especially those who are particularly vulnerable to both COVID-19 and influenza such as older adults and those with chronic health conditions.

New legislation in New Jersey requires healthcare workers to get a flu vaccine unless they have a valid medical contraindication. The state law, enacted in January 2020, requires all employees of hospitals, nursing homes and home health agencies to get a flu vaccine. More information can be found at: www.njleg.state.nj.us/2018/Bills/PL19/330_.PDF.

The following is a list of resources from the New Jersey Department of Health that can help to encourage flu vaccination in your healthcare facility:

*Flu and Healthcare Workers Flyer

https://nj.gov/health/cd/documents/flu/hcw_flu_flyer.pdf

*Why You Need A Flu Vaccine Flyer (For the general public)

https://nj.gov/health/cd/documents/flu/why_you_need_flu_vaccine.pdf

*NJDOH Flu Website

www.nj.gov/health/cd/topics/flu.shtml

*New Jersey Influenza Honor Roll

The New Jersey Influenza Honor Roll is an initiative that serves to recognize institutions that encourage and promote flu prevention within their communities. There are four categories of eligible institutions: educational facilities, community-based organizations, businesses, and healthcare facilities. Applications for the 2020-21 flu season will be accepted through March 31, 2021. Please consider submitting an application detailing how you helped to prevent the flu. For more information please visit www.nj.gov/health/cd/edu_training/vpdp_flu_honor_roll.shtml

*Power to Protect Campaign

With support from NJDOH, the Partnership for Maternal and Child Health of Northern NJ is running a statewide flu campaign which includes a website, billboards, resources, and a digital toolkit. The toolkit contains social media shareables targeting different population groups such as families, healthcare providers, and those you care for. Please visit <https://powertoprotectnj.org/> to learn more about the campaign.