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## Strategies to Enhance Influenza Vaccination for Practices that Care for Children and Adolescents

**Pediatrics, Family Practice, Internal Med-Peds, and Pediatric Specialists including Cardiologists, Pulmonologists, Allergists, Endocrinologists, Infectious Disease Personnel, and other related specialties**

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### Develop a plan to vaccinate all staff and office members

- Educate staff on influenza, including facts; dispel myths. For more information go to [www.michigan.gov/flu](http://www.michigan.gov/flu)
- Stress the importance of being immunized
- Offer flu vaccine at no charge if possible
- Let parents know that the staff is vaccinated against influenza

### Establish a plan for vaccinating all your patients

- Develop an office timeline that includes messages recommending vaccination for your patients
- Use a reminder system – Letters or auto-dialer phone messages
  - Mail reminders to all families about influenza in advance
  - Prepare reminders (letters or phone messages) and be flexible when scheduling appointments
  - Target high risk patients (include those who need 2 doses of vaccine in the same flu season) & their close contacts
- Utilize or develop standing orders for “vaccine-only” visits
- Use every single opportunity (both well & sick visits) to educate parents about the risks of influenza

### Make influenza vaccination convenient

- Organize flu-specific vaccination clinic days and/or establish a separate flu clinic during office hours
- Consider scheduling flu vaccination clinics in December and later
- Designate a specific clinic room or area for flu administration appointments, walk-ins, or referrals
- Utilize or develop standing orders for “vaccine-only” visits

### Schedule appointments

- Schedule all high-risk children and adolescents by the end of summer
- Schedule all children & adolescents who are household contacts of high-risk persons including those 0 thru 4 yrs of age
- Schedule **all children 6 months thru 4 years of age** by September/October
- Use the Michigan Care Improvement Registry (MCIR) for reminder/recall messages
  - In September, run a provider profile of children 5 months-58 months
  - Enter “9’s” in all of the antigens to identify all of the children in this age group
  - Identify high risk patients in MCIR using the Influenza Screening Notification box located on the patient general information screen
- Schedule a second appointment for those children who should receive 2 doses of vaccine
- Recall those you have not heard from by using letters or auto-dialer phone messages

### Be ready

- Use Vaccines for Children (VFC) vaccine for eligible children
- Pull charts, check VFC eligibility and MCIR for other needed immunizations in advance
- Provide Vaccine Information Statements (VIS) and vaccine screening form; have any consent forms signed at check-in
- Give influenza vaccine with other needed immunizations (i.e. DTaP #4)
- Communicate with the local health department about changes in vaccine supply & guidelines as needed throughout influenza season

**Let parents know their child needs flu vaccine. A healthcare provider’s recommendation to vaccinate has the most influence on parents.**

- Educate parents using flyers, posters in the office, mailings, well child visits, and VIS

**Vaccinate prior to and throughout flu season (October to March). If needed, order more vaccine to ensure your patients are protected.**

- Check at all well child and sick visits during the flu season for the need for influenza vaccine
- Recall patients you have not heard from by using letters and auto-dialer phone messages
- Remind families of a flu clinic or the need to schedule an appointment

**Use MCIR to document all vaccines administered and to give the parents a record of their child’s immunizations**

### Evaluate your plan and determine your progress

- Review charts to assure that all your eligible, high-risk patients (i.e. diabetic, asthmatics) have been vaccinated
- Track the number of influenza vaccine doses administered each year to patients and staff