

Notice Date: August 16, 2023
To: Ohio MyCare Providers
From: CareSource
Subject: Importance of Providers Receiving the Flu Vaccination

Every winter, providers stress the importance of the flu vaccination to patients. However, it is equally as important for providers to receive the flu vaccination. CareSource is encouraging all providers to receive the flu vaccination this year.

Benefits of the flu vaccine:

- An annual flu vaccination one of the best ways to reduce the chances that you will get the seasonal flu and spread it to others.
- When more people are vaccinated against the flu, less flu can spread through the community.

Why should providers get a flu vaccine?

- Providers have regular interactions with their patients, friends, and family - putting themselves at risk for developing the flu and increasing the potential to spread it to others, including those in the high-risk category. This is one reason why we strongly encourage all providers to consider being vaccinated. Review [this document](#) from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) for more information.
- The symptoms of the flu and COVID-19 are similar. By receiving the flu vaccination, you could be reducing confusion of symptoms of Influenza vs. COVID-19 and reduce added strain on our health care system.

Who is at high risk for flu-related complications?

The CDC has published a [list](#) of people at high-risk for developing flu-related complications. The list includes:

- Adults 65 years of age or older
- Pregnant women
- Adults with certain chronic health conditions including asthma, heart disease and stroke, and chronic kidney disease

Flu Shot Facts

- The sooner you get the flu shot, the sooner you are protected. It can take up to two weeks to reach its full effect.
- It is important to get the flu shot every year! The flu viruses from last flu season will be different from the flu this season because the virus changes each year. You need a new vaccine every year to protect yourself.
- “Flu season” can last from early October to late May.
- The flu is easily spread on infected surfaces and by contact with others. Gathering together for holidays increases the chance of spreading the flu. By getting a flu shot, you can reduce those chances, which means more time for holiday fun!

Questions?

For more information, please reach out to CareSource Provider Services at **1-800-488-0134**.

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