



Childhood Influenza Vaccination

The American Academy of Pediatrics recommends annual influenza vaccination of all children without medical contraindications starting at 6 months of age.

Strategies for Increasing Childhood Influenza Vaccination

All staff in healthcare practices play an important role in supporting vaccination.

Clinician/ Care Team



- Give a strong, presumptive influenza vaccine recommendation.
- Bundle flu vaccine with other routine immunizations to streamline delivery and improve uptake.
- Use consistent messaging across all care team members to reinforce the importance of flu vaccination.
- Designate a flu vaccine champion to lead efforts, encourage best practices, and track progress.

Practice/ Health Systems



- Review flu vaccine status at all visits.
- Offer and vaccinate at all types of visits and care settings — well-child, sick visits, follow-ups, and in hospitals, emergency departments, and specialty clinics.
- Improve access with options like extended hours and vaccine-only clinics.
- Provide evidence-based educational materials for patients and families.
- Equip staff with talking points to address common questions and concerns.
- Refer early for allergy evaluation, if vaccine allergy is suspected, to avoid missed opportunities.
- Send reminders and recall messages to encourage timely vaccination.
- Use electronic health record (EHR)-based tools to identify and classify high-risk patients.
- Use standing orders for flu vaccine.
- Implement flu vaccine prompts or clinical design support.
- Conduct regular audits and share feedback with staff to improve performance.
- Integrate your EHR with state or regional immunization systems for tracking flu vaccine data.

Visit the County of San Diego Immunization Unit at sdiz.org for more information.

