

## Virginia Healthcare-Associated Infections Advisory Group

### 2017 Consensus Statement on the Annual Vaccination of Healthcare Workers for Influenza Prevention

Influenza remains a disease of public health importance that affects large numbers of persons in Virginia each year, and immunization is the most effective way to prevent the disease. The Virginia Healthcare-Associated Infections Advisory Group strongly recommends that **all healthcare workers in Virginia receive an annual influenza vaccination**. This recommendation is intended to support two goals: The [Healthy People 2020](#) goal for 90% of healthcare workers in the country to receive an annual influenza vaccination, and the [Virginia Plan for Well-Being](#) goal for 70% of adults in the state to receive the annual vaccination. It is also supported by a body of evidence showing the benefits of healthcare worker influenza vaccination:

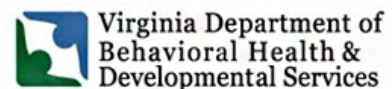
Among healthcare workers:	Among patients:
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Reduces medical costs</li><li>• Reduces indirect costs, including use of sick leave</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Reduces healthcare-associated transmission</li><li>• Reduces complications and severe outcomes</li></ul>

The advisory group defines healthcare worker broadly, to include all full- and part-time personnel and volunteers who spend at least one day working in a healthcare setting during a given year.

Influenza prevention strategies for healthcare employers:

- Promote vaccination annually as a part of a comprehensive infection prevention plan.
- Support vaccination efforts with education on the benefits of vaccination, risks and burden of influenza, and information to dispel common myths and misconceptions.
- Offer vaccination at the workplace in a variety of times and places, and free of charge if possible.

The following member organizations are in support of this statement:



Additional Information:

- [VDH Influenza website](#)
- [HAI Annual Report](#) for current hospital-level data on healthcare worker influenza vaccination
- [CDC website](#)