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:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Among healthcare workers:</th>
<th>Among patients:</th>
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<tbody>
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<td>• Reduces medical costs</td>
<td>• Reduces healthcare-associated transmission</td>
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<tr>
<td>• Reduces indirect costs, including use of sick leave</td>
<td>• Reduces complications and severe outcomes</td>
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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](#)