

2020 – 2021 Flu Season

The CDC continues to recommend flu vaccination for everyone 6 months and older. Last flu season there were 18 million medical visits related to the flu leading to 410,000 hospital visits and 24,000 deaths.

Current information indicates it is possible to get both the flu (or other respiratory illness) and COVID-19 at the same time. Flu vaccination is still the best preventive measure against the flu and this year it will be more important than ever.

To help you with the process this year, the CDC suggests some changes in practice for in office visits and vaccinations including:

- Screen for symptoms of COVID-19 prior to patient arriving for an office visit and isolate symptomatic patients as soon as possible.
- Schedule well visits and sick visits at different times of day to reduce the chance of viral spread. (For example, well visits and vaccinations in the morning and sick visits in the afternoon.)
- Create one-way traffic flow through your office to facilitate 6 - feet of physical separation before, during, and after visit.
- Decrease crowding in waiting areas by having patients call to check in when they arrive and wait outside or in their cars.
- Encourage patients to fill out paperwork online prior to visits as often as possible.

Source: CDC

<https://www.cdc.gov/flu/season/faq-flu-season-2020-2021.htm>

<https://www.cdc.gov/vaccines/pandemic-guidance/index.html>