

Dr. Whitley-Williams Shares Importance of Flu Vaccine during National News Conference

Patricia N. Whitley-Williams, MD, professor of pediatrics and chief, Division of Allergy, Immunology and Infectious Disease, was part of a panel of experts who presented on influenza and the importance of the flu vaccine during a National Foundation for Infectious Disease (NFID) news conference on Sept. 26 in Washington, DC.

During the conference, panelists commented on a new NFID-sponsored [survey](#) that found only 52% of U.S. adults plan to get a flu shot this season, despite 60% responding that they thought the vaccine was the best way to prevent hospitalizations and deaths from the virus. Panelists urged Americans to get their annual flu shots, emphasizing it is the best defense against the virus. They even received their flu shots during the conference, setting an example.

“The medical community must figure out how to get more Americans to take the flu seriously and get vaccinated against the seasonal virus so that the innovations the infectious disease community is working on to produce pandemic and universal influenza vaccines can best be utilized,” said Dr. Whitley-Williams, who is also NFID president elect.



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