

Injectable Flu vaccine: who should get it?

This year's supply of injectable influenza (flu) vaccine is limited. About 54 million doses are expected to be available in the United States this season. This supply is not enough to immunize all who want the vaccine. Another 2.1 million doses of the intranasal vaccine will also be available this season. The intranasal vaccine is recommended for those healthy persons who are aged 5-49 years and are not pregnant, including persons caring for children aged <6 months.

It is important that people at **high risk of serious complications from flu** or those who **take care of these people and can spread infection to them** are first to get the available injectable vaccine.

Use this checklist to see whether you are a candidate for immediate vaccination with the injectable vaccine, according to CDC's standards. **If you do not fit into one of these categories**, the CDC asks that you **DO NOT** receive a flu vaccination so that your dose can be given to someone who is vulnerable to influenza complications.

[Check any that apply . . . If you are not sure about any answer, ask your doctor or clinic staff.]

- Is the vaccine for a child aged 6-23 months?
- Are you 65 years of age or older?
- Are you, or is the vaccine for someone, 2 - 64 years of age with any of the following underlying chronic medical conditions;
 - Asthma or another lung disease?
 - Heart Disease?
 - Metabolic Disease, such as diabetes?
 - Kidney Disease?
 - Blood Disease, such as anemia?
 - Weakened immune system, eg, due to cancer or cancer treatment, HIV/AIDS, or steroid therapy?
- Are you, or do you plan to become, pregnant during the influenza season?
- Do you live in a nursing home or a long-term care facility?
- Is the vaccine for a child aged 6 months-18 years taking aspirin on a long-term basis?
- Are you a health-care worker involved in direct, hands-on patient care?
- Do you live with, or care for, one or more children aged <6 months?

If you checked **ANY** of these, you should **GET** flu vaccine as soon as it is available.

Otherwise, please consider forgoing your injectable flu vaccine so that someone who is vulnerable to complications from influenza can get the vaccine instead.