



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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AMA APPLAUDS NATIONAL INFLUENZA VACCINATION WEEK

Statement attributable to: Ardis D. Hoven, M.D.
AMA Board Member

“The American Medical Association (AMA) applauds HHS for creating new initiatives to extend flu vaccination to more Americans. It is our hope that the establishment of annual National Influenza Vaccination Week will remind patients of the importance of getting their flu vaccination.

“With the holiday season around the corner, Americans need to protect themselves and their loved ones from the flu. The flu vaccine is safe and effective and is the single best protection from the virus. Vaccination is beneficial even when given after Thanksgiving.

“Each year, an average of 36,000 Americans die from seasonal flu and more than 200,000 are hospitalized due to complications. Despite these facts, nearly half of the American public does not get vaccinated.

“The AMA will continue to work with HHS to increase influenza vaccination during National Influenza Vaccination Week and beyond. We are currently working with the CDC and others through the National Influenza Vaccine Summit to improve vaccine supply and distribution. This year the Summit is creating a new Web site with a range of tools to help physicians and patients understand and improve influenza immunization through December and beyond.”

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About the American Medical Association

The American Medical Association helps doctors help patients by uniting physicians nationwide to work on the most important professional and public health issues. Working together, the AMA's quarter of a million physician and medical student members are playing an active role in shaping the future of medicine. For more information on the AMA, please visit www.ama-assn.org.