

Public Health Brief

A Newsletter on Current Public Health Topics



Serving Adams, Arapahoe and Douglas Counties

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You have received this message based upon the information contained within our Health Alert Network Notification System. If you have a different or additional e-mail or fax address that you would like us to use or if you have additional questions, please call 720-200-1477.

Categories of Health Alert Network Messages:

Health Alert: Conveys the highest level of importance; warrants immediate action or attention.

Health Advisory: Provides important information for a specific incident or situation; may not require immediate action.

Health Update: Provides updated information regarding an incident or situation; unlikely to require immediate action.

Info Service/Public Health Brief: Provides general information that is not necessarily considered to be of an emergent nature.

You may download a copy of this HAN from the TCHD website at
<http://www.tchd.org/259/Health-Alert-Network>

Improving Influenza Vaccination of Pregnant Women October 13, 2015

The 2015-2016 influenza season has begun in the United States and Colorado. Pregnant women are at increased risk for complications and hospitalizations related to influenza and routine vaccination has been recommended since 2004 by the Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices (ACIP) and the American College of Obstetricians and Gynecologists (ACOG)¹. The vaccine is safe and effective, and can be administered in any trimester².

Did you know that last flu season only 50% of pregnant women reported receiving a flu vaccine before or during their pregnancy?

That's correct. The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) recently released data from an internet survey conducted earlier this year to assess flu vaccine uptake among pregnant women³. The survey also showed that 65% of respondents received an offer of flu vaccine from their provider, 20% received no recommendation, and 15% received a recommendation but no offer for vaccine.

Even more telling was that 68% of women who had their provider directly offer vaccine chose to get vaccinated versus only 8% of women for whom no recommendation was made.

Data strongly indicates that pregnant women listen to a provider's recommendations for flu vaccine and are substantially more likely to get a flu vaccine if offered in your office.

We are asking for your assistance in providing a personalized influenza vaccine recommendation from you or your staff to all of your patients and to hopefully be able to offer a vaccine during patient visits. Your advice matters and can help improve vaccine uptake in this vulnerable population.

If your practice does not provide flu vaccine, there are low- and no-cost opportunities for uninsured and Medicaid insured patients at Tri-County Health Department or other public health agencies in the Denver Metro area. Contact information is provided below. For privately insured patients, many pharmacies now offer vaccines and can bill insurance. Additionally, the Tdap vaccine recommended in the third trimester is also available for patients at these locations.

Given the ongoing importance of influenza as a major cause of morbidity and mortality in pregnant women, we encourage all obstetric providers to make immunization of their patients a high priority.

Tri-County Health Department Immunizations: [303-451-0123](tel:303-451-0123)
www.tchd.org/356/Immunizations

Denver Public Health Immunizations: [303-602-3520](tel:303-602-3520)
www.denverhealth.org/public-health-and-wellness/public-health/clinics-and-services/immunization-clinic

Jefferson County Public Health Immunizations: [303-239-7078](tel:303-239-7078)
jeffco.us/public-health/healthy-families/immunizations/