

What's New for 2025-2026

A couple of things are different for the 2025-2026 influenza (flu) season:

The [composition of flu vaccines](#) has been updated. Flu vaccines for the U.S. 2025-2026 season will contain the following:

Egg-based vaccines

- an A/Victoria/4897/2022 (H1N1)pdm09-like virus;
- an [A/Croatia/10136RV/2023 \(H3N2\)-like virus](#); and (Updated)
- a B/Austria/1359417/2021 (B/Victoria lineage)-like virus.

Cell- or recombinant-based vaccines

- an A/Wisconsin/67/2022 (H1N1)pdm09-like virus;
- an [A/District of Columbia/27/2023 \(H3N2\)-like virus](#); and (Updated)
- a B/Austria/1359417/2021 (B/Victoria lineage)-like virus.

All flu vaccines available in the United States for the 2025-2026 season will be trivalent vaccines containing hemagglutinin. Trivalent flu vaccines are formulated to protect against three flu viruses (an A(H1N1) virus, an A(H3N2) virus, and a B/Victoria virus). Both trivalent and quadrivalent flu vaccines are expected to offer similar protection against the flu viruses they protect against. B/Yamagata flu viruses have not circulated in the population after March 2020, so protection from trivalent and quadrivalent flu vaccines is expected to be similar. More information about [trivalent flu vaccines](#) is available.

- People with egg allergy may get any vaccine (egg-based or non-egg-based) that is otherwise appropriate for their age and health status. Previously, it was recommended that people with severe allergy to egg (those who have had any symptom other than hives with egg exposure) be vaccinated in an inpatient or outpatient medical setting. For the 2025-2026 season, no additional safety measures are no longer recommended for flu vaccination of people with an egg allergy beyond those recommended for receipt of any vaccine, regardless of the severity of previous reaction to egg. As with all vaccines, flu vaccines should be given in settings where allergic reactions can be recognized and treated quickly.

Flu Key Facts

What is Influenza (Flu)?

Flu is a contagious respiratory illness caused by influenza viruses that infect the nose, throat, and sometimes the lungs. It can cause mild to severe illness, and at times can lead to death. The best way to prevent flu is by getting a flu vaccine each year.

Flu Symptoms

Influenza (flu) can cause mild to severe illness, and at times can lead to death. Flu symptoms usually come on suddenly. People who have flu often feel some or all of these symptoms:

- fever* or feeling feverish/chills
- cough
- sore throat
- runny or stuffy nose
- muscle or body aches
- headaches
- fatigue (tiredness)
- some people may have vomiting and diarrhea, though this is more common in children than adults.

*It's important to note that not everyone with flu will have a fever.

How Flu Spreads

Most experts believe that flu viruses spread mainly by tiny droplets made when people with flu cough, sneeze, or talk. These droplets can land in the mouths or noses of people who are nearby. Less often, a person might get flu by touching a surface or object that has flu virus on it and then touching their own mouth, nose or possibly their eyes.

Period of Contagiousness

You may be able to spread flu to someone else before you know you are sick, as well as when you are sick with symptoms.

- People with flu are most contagious in the first 3-4 days after their illness begins.
- Some otherwise healthy adults may be able to infect others beginning one day **before** symptoms develop and up to five to seven days **after** becoming sick.
- Some people, especially young children and people with weakened immune systems, might be able to infect others for an even longer time.

Onset of Symptoms

The time from when a person is exposed and infected with flu to when symptoms begin is about two days, but can range from about one to four days.

People at Higher Risk from Flu

Anyone can get flu (even healthy people), and serious problems related to flu can happen at any age, but some people are at higher risk of developing serious flu-related complications if they get sick. This includes people 65 years and older, people of any age with certain chronic medical conditions (such as asthma, diabetes, or heart disease), pregnant people, and children younger than 5 years.

Preventing Seasonal Flu

The first and most important step in preventing flu is to get a flu vaccine each year. Flu vaccine has been shown to reduce flu related illnesses and the risk of serious flu complications that can result in hospitalization or even death. CDC also recommends everyday preventive actions (like staying away from people who are sick, covering coughs and sneezes, and frequent handwashing) to help slow the spread of germs that cause respiratory (nose, throat, and lungs) illnesses, like flu.

Flu Vaccine

What is the best time to get my influenza vaccine?

For most people who need only one dose of flu vaccine for the season, **September and October** are generally good times to be vaccinated against flu. Ideally, everyone should be vaccinated by the end of October.

Groups recommended for vaccination:

CDC continues to recommend that everyone 6 months of age and older, with rare exceptions, receive a routine annual flu vaccine to reduce the risk of influenza and its potentially serious complications. Providers are encouraged to prepare for influenza vaccination planning efforts now and to vaccinate patients as indicated once 2025-2026 influenza vaccines become available.

Most people need only one dose of the flu vaccine each season. While CDC recommends flu vaccination as long as influenza viruses are circulating, September and October remain the best times for most people to get vaccinated. Flu vaccination in July and August is not recommended for most people, but there are several considerations regarding vaccination during those months for specific groups:

- Pregnant people who are in their third trimester can get a flu vaccine in July or August to protect their babies from flu after birth, when they are too young to get vaccinated.

- Children who need two doses of the flu vaccine should get their first dose of vaccine as soon as it becomes available. The second dose should be given at least four weeks after the first.
- Vaccination in July or August can be considered for children **who only need 1 dose of the flu vaccine for the season** who have health care visits during those months if there might not be another opportunity to vaccinate them.
- For adults (especially those 65 years old and older) and pregnant people in the first and second trimester, vaccination in July and August should be avoided unless it won't be possible to vaccinate in September or October.

Are any of the available flu vaccines recommended over others?

The ACIP recommends seasonal flu vaccination with single-dose formulations that are free of thimerosal as a preservative for children, pregnant, women, and adults for the 2025-2026 flu season.

Yes, ACIP recommends that adults aged ≥ 65 years preferentially receive any one of the following:

- High-dose inactivated influenza vaccine (HD-IIV3, Fluzone High-Dose),
- Recombinant influenza vaccine (RIV3, Flublok)
- Adjuvanted inactivated influenza vaccine (aIIV3, Fluad)

Data support greater potential benefit of high-dose inactivated, adjuvanted inactivated, or recombinant vaccines relative to standard-dose unadjuvanted IIVs in adults aged ≥ 65 years, with the most data available for HD-IIV3; but comparisons of these vaccines with one another are limited.

What if a preferentially recommended flu vaccine is not available?

If none of these three vaccines is available at a vaccination opportunity, then any other age-appropriate influenza vaccine should be used.

Recent FDA approved label changes

FluMist, the nasal spray flu vaccine, is expected to be available for the 2025–2026 season and can be self-administered by adults 18–49 years old, or given by a caregiver aged 18 or older to children and teens 2–17 years old.

Flublok, the recombinant influenza vaccine, can now be given to individuals aged 9 years and older, expanding from the previous indication of 18 years and older.

Flu Treatment

If you get sick with flu, influenza antiviral drugs may be a treatment option. Antiviral drugs work best when started early, such as one to two days after your flu symptoms begin.

Check with your doctor promptly if you are at higher risk of serious flu complications and you get flu symptoms. People at higher risk of flu complications include young children, adults 65 years of age and older, pregnant people, and people with certain medical conditions such as asthma, diabetes and heart disease.

When treatment is started within 1-2 days after flu symptoms begin, influenza antiviral drugs can lessen symptoms and shorten the time you are sick by 1 or 2 days. They might also prevent some flu complications, like pneumonia. For people at higher risk of serious flu complications, treatment with influenza antiviral drugs can mean the difference between milder or more serious illness possibly resulting in a hospital stay.

Last Reviewed: 09/03/2025

Source: [Centers for Disease Control and Prevention](#).

NOTICE OF AVAILABILITY OF LANGUAGE ASSISTANCE, AUXILIARY AIDS AND SERVICES

English: ATTENTION: If you speak English, free language assistance services are available to you. Appropriate auxiliary aids and services to provide information in accessible formats are also available free of charge. Call 833-342-7463 (TTY:711) or speak to your provider.

Spanish: ATENCIÓN: Si habla español, están disponibles servicios de asistencia lingüística gratuita para usted. También están disponibles sin cargo adecuado apoyos y servicios para proporcionar información en formatos accesibles. Llame al 833-342-7463 (TTY:711) o hable con su proveedor.

Haitian Creole: ATANSYON: Si w pale Kreyòl Ayisyen, gen sèvis èd aladispozisyon w gratis pou lang ou pale a. Èd ak sèvis siplemantè apwopriye pou bay enfòmasyon nan fòm aksesib yo disponib gratis tou. Rele nan 833-342-7463 (TTY:711) oswa pale avèk founisè w la.

Arabic: وسائل تتوفر كما. المجانية اللغوية المساعدة خدمات لك فستتوفر، العربية اللغة تتحدث كنت إذا: تنبيه
833-342-7463 م الرق على اتصل. مجاناً إليها الوصول يمكن بتنسيقات المعلومات لتوفير مناسبة وخدمات مساعدة
(TTY:711) "الخدمة مقدم إلى تحدث أو".

Chinese Traditional: 注意：如果您說[台語]，我們可以為您提供免費語言協助服務。也可以免費提供適當的輔助工具與服務，以無障礙格式提供資訊。請致電 833-342-7463 (TTY:711) 或與您的提供者討論。

Chinese Simplified: 注意：如果您说[中文]，我们将免费为您提供语言协助服务。我们还免费提供适当的辅助工具和服务，以无障碍格式提供信息。致电 833-342-7463 (文本电话: (TTY:711) 或咨询您的服务提供商。

French: ATTENTION: Si vous parlez anglais, des services d'assistance linguistique gratuits sont à votre disposition. Des aides et services auxiliaires appropriés pour fournir des informations dans des formats accessibles sont également disponibles gratuitement. Appelez le 833-342-7463 (TTY: 711) ou parlez à votre fournisseur.

German: ACHTUNG: Wenn Sie Englisch sprechen, stehen Ihnen kostenlose Sprachhilfe-Dienste zur Verfügung. Angemessene Hilfsmittel und Dienste zur Bereitstellung von Informationen in zugänglichen Formaten sind ebenfalls kostenlos verfügbar. Rufen Sie 833-342-7463 (TTY: 711) an oder sprechen Sie mit Ihrem Anbieter.

Gujarati: ધ્યાન આપો: જો તમે ગુજરાતી બોલતા હો તો મફત ભાષાકીય સહાયતા સેવાઓ તમારા માટે ઉપલબ્ધ છે. યોગ્ય ઓકઝલિરી સહાય અને એક્સેસિબલ ફોર્મેટમાં માહિતી પૂરી પાડવા માટેની સેવાઓ પણ વાની મૂલ્યે ઉપલબ્ધ છે. 833-342-7463 (TTY:711) પર કોલ કરો અથવા તમારા પ્રદાતા સાથે વાત કરો.

Italian: ATTENZIONE: Se parli inglese, sono disponibili servizi di assistenza linguistica gratuiti per te. Sono disponibili anche ausili e servizi appropriati per fornire informazioni in formati accessibili, anch'essi gratuiti. Chiama il 833-342-7463 (TTY:711) o parla con il tuo fornitore.

Korean: 주의: [한국어]를 사용하시는 경우 무료 언어 지원 서비스를 이용하실 수 있습니다. 이용 가능한 형식으로 정보를 제공하는 적절한 보조 기구 및 서비스도 무료로 제공됩니다. 833-342-7463 (TTY:711) 번으로 전화하거나 서비스 제공업체에 문의하십시오.

Polish: UWAGA: Osoby mówiące po polsku mogą skorzystać z bezpłatnej pomocy językowej. Dodatkowe pomoce i usługi zapewniające informacje w dostępnych formatach są również dostępne bezpłatnie. Zadzwoń pod numer 833-342-7463 (TTY:711) lub porozmawiaj ze swoim dostawcą.

Portuguese: ATENÇÃO: Se você fala inglês, serviços de assistência linguística gratuitos estão disponíveis para você. Ajudas e serviços auxiliares apropriados para fornecer informações em formatos acessíveis também estão disponíveis gratuitamente. Ligue para 833-342-7463 (TTY:711) ou converse com seu prestador de serviços.

Russian: ВНИМАНИЕ: Если вы говорите на русский, вам доступны бесплатные услуги языковой поддержки. Соответствующие вспомогательные средства и услуги по предоставлению информации в доступных форматах также предоставляются бесплатно. Позвоните по телефону 833-342-7463 (TTY:711) или обратитесь к своему поставщику услуг.

Taglog: PAALALA: Kung nagsasalita ka ng Tagalog, magagamit mo ang mga libreng serbisyonang tulong sa wika. Magagamit din nang libre ang mga naaangkop na auxiliary na tulong at serbisyo upang magbigay ng impormasyon sa mga naa-access na format. Tumawag sa 833-342-7463 (TTY:711) o makipag-usap sa iyong provider."

Thai: หมายเหตุ: หากคุณใช้ภาษาไทย เรามีบริการความช่วยเหลือด้านภาษาฟรี นอกจากนี้ ยังมีเครื่องมือและบริการช่วยเหลือเพื่อให้ข้อมูลในรูปแบบที่เข้าถึงได้โดยไม่เสียค่าใช้จ่าย โปรดโทรติดต่อ 833-342-7463 (TTY:711) หรือปรึกษาผู้ให้บริการของคุณ"

Vietnamese: LƯU Ý: Nếu bạn nói tiếng Việt, chúng tôi cung cấp miễn phí các dịch vụ hỗ trợ ngôn ngữ. Các hỗ trợ dịch vụ phù hợp để cung cấp thông tin theo các định dạng dễ tiếp cận cũng được cung cấp miễn phí. Vui lòng gọi theo số 1-xxx-xxx-xxxx (Người khuyết tật: 833-342-7463 (TTY:711) hoặc trao đổi với người cung cấp dịch vụ của bạn."

Notice of Non-Discrimination

Doctors HealthCare Plans, Inc. complies with applicable Federal civil rights laws and does not discriminate or exclude people on the basis of race, color, creed, religion, national origin, age, disability, political affiliations or beliefs, or sex (including pregnancy, sexual orientation, and gender identity).

Doctors HealthCare Plans:

- Provides free aids and services to people with disabilities to communicate effectively with us, such as:
 - Qualified sign language interpreters
 - Written information in other formats (large print, audio, accessible electronic formats, other formats)
- Provides free language services to people whose primary language is not English, such as:
 - Qualified interpreters
 - Information written in other languages
- If you need these services, contact Member Services/Civil Rights.

If you believe that Doctors HealthCare Plans has failed to provide these services or discriminated in another way, you can file a grievance with:

Doctors HealthCare Plans, Inc.

Attn: Member Services/Civil Rights
2020 Ponce De Leon Blvd, PH1
Coral Gables, FL 33134
Telephone: 833-342-7463 (TTY: 711)
Fax: 786-578-0293,
Email: civilrights@doctorshcp.com

You can file a grievance in person or by mail, fax, or email. If you need help filing a grievance, Member Services/Civil Rights, is available to help you.

You can also file a civil rights complaint with the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, Office for Civil Rights, electronically through the Office for Civil Rights Complaint Portal, available at <https://ocrportal.hhs.gov/ocr/portal/lobby.jsf>, or by mail or phone at:

U.S. Department of Health and Human Services

200 Independence Avenue, SW
Room 509F, HHH Building
Washington, D.C. 20201
1-800-368-1019, 800-537-7697 (TDD)

Complaint forms are available at <https://www.hhs.gov/ocr/complaints/index.html>.

Notice of Non-Discrimination

Doctors HealthCare Plans, Inc. complies with applicable Federal civil rights laws and does not discriminate or exclude people on the basis of race, color, creed, religion, national origin, age, disability, political affiliations or beliefs, or sex (including pregnancy, sexual orientation, and gender identity).

Doctors HealthCare Plans:

- Provides free aids and services to people with disabilities to communicate effectively with us, such as:
 - Qualified sign language interpreters
 - Written information in other formats (large print, audio, accessible electronic formats, other formats)
- Provides free language services to people whose primary language is not English, such as:
 - Qualified interpreters
 - Information written in other languages
- If you need these services, contact Member Services/Civil Rights.

If you believe that Doctors HealthCare Plans has failed to provide these services or discriminated in another way, you can file a grievance with:

Doctors HealthCare Plans, Inc.

Attn: Member Services/Civil Rights
2020 Ponce De Leon Blvd, PH1
Coral Gables, FL 33134
Telephone: 833-342-7463 (TTY: 711)
Fax: 786-578-0293,
Email: civilrights@doctorshcp.com

You can file a grievance in person or by mail, fax, or email. If you need help filing a grievance, Member Services/Civil Rights, is available to help you.

You can also file a civil rights complaint with the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, Office for Civil Rights, electronically through the Office for Civil Rights Complaint Portal, available at <https://ocrportal.hhs.gov/ocr/portal/lobby.jsf>, or by mail or phone at:

U.S. Department of Health and Human Services

200 Independence Avenue, SW
Room 509F, HHH Building
Washington, D.C. 20201
1-800-368-1019, 800-537-7697 (TDD)

Complaint forms are available at <https://www.hhs.gov/ocr/complaints/index.html>.

NOTICE OF AVAILABILITY OF LANGUAGE ASSISTANCE, AUXILIARY AIDS AND SERVICES

English: ATTENTION: If you speak English, free language assistance services are available to you. Appropriate auxiliary aids y services to provide information in accessible formats are also available free of charge. Call 833-342-7463 (TTY:711) o speak to your provider.

Spanish: ATENCIÓN: Si habla español, están disponibles servicios de asistencia lingüística gratuita para usted. También están disponibles sin carga adecuada apoyos y servicios para proporcionar información en formatos accesibles. Llame al 833-342-7463 (TTY:711) o hable con su proveedor.

Haitian Creole: ATANSYON: Si w pale Kreyòl Ayisyen, gen sèvis èd aladispozisyon w gratis pou lang ou pale a. Ed ak sèvis siplemantè apwopriye pou bay enfòmasyon nan fòma aksesib yo disponib gratis tou. Rele nan 833-342-7463 (TTY:711) oswa pale avèk founisè w la.

Arabic:

تنبيه: إذا كنت تتحدث اللغة العربية، فستتوفر لك خدمات المساعدة اللغوية المجانية. كما تتوفر وسائل مساعدة وخدمات مناسبة لتوفير المعلومات بتنسيقات يمكن الوصول إليها مجانًا. اتصل على الرقم - (TTY: 711) (833-342-7463) أو تحدث إلى مقدم الخدمة.

Chinese Traditional: 注意：如果您說[台語]，我們可以為您提供免費語言協助服務。也可以免費提供適當的輔助工具與服務，以無障礙格式提供資訊。請致電 833-342-7463 (TTY:711) 或與您的提供者討論。」

Chinese Simplified: 注意：如果您说[中文]，我们将免费为您提供语言协助服务。我们还免费提供适当的辅助工具和服务，以无障碍格式提供信息。致电 833-342-7463（文本电话：(TTY:711) 或咨询您的服务提供商。

French: ATTENTION: Si vous parlez Français, des services d'assistance linguistique gratuits sont à votre disposition. Des aides et services auxiliaires appropriés pour fournir des informations dans des formats accessibles sont également disponibles gratuitement. Appelez le 833-342-7463 (TTY: 711) ou parlez à votre fournisseur.

German: ACHTUNG: Wenn Sie Deutsch sprechen, stehen Ihnen kostenlose Sprachhilfe-Dienste zur Verfügung. Angemessene Hilfsmittel und Dienste zur Bereitstellung von Informationen in zugänglichen Formaten sind ebenfalls kostenlos verfügbar. Rufen Sie 833-342-7463 (TTY: 711) an oder sprechen Sie mit Ihrem Anbieter.

Gujarati: ધ યાન આપો: જો તમે ગુજરાતી બોલતા હો, તો મફત ભાષાકીય સહાયતા સેવાઓ તમારા માટે ઉપલબ્ધ છે. માહિતીને સુલભ સ્ વસ્તુમાં આપવાની યોગ્ય સહાયક સાધનો અને સેવાઓ પણ હહન શુલ્ ડ ઉપલબ્ધ છે. 833-342-7463 (TTY:711) પર કોલ કરો અથવા તમારા પરદાતા સાથે વાત કરો.

Italian: ATTENZIONE: Se parli Italiano, sono disponibili servizi di assistenza linguistica gratuiti per te. Sono disponibili anche ausili e servizi appropriati per fornire informazioni in formati accessibili, anch'essi gratuiti. Chiama il 833-342-7463 (TTY:711) o parla con il tuo fornitore.

Korean: 주의: [한국어]를 사용하시는 경우 무료 언어 지원 서비스를 이용하실 수 있습니다. 이용 가능한 형식으로 정보를 제공하는 적절한 보조 기구 및 서비스도 무료로 제공됩니다. 833-342-7463 (TTY:711) 번으로 전화하거나 서비스 제공업체에 문의하십시오.

Polish: UWAGA: Osoby mówiące po polsku mogą skorzystać z bezpłatnej pomocy językowej. Dodatkowe pomoce i usługi zapewniające informacje w dostępnych formatach są również dostępne bezpłatnie. Zadzwoń pod numer 833-342-7463 (TTY:711) lub porozmawiaj ze swoim dostawcą”.

Portuguese: ATENÇÃO: Se você fala Português, serviços de assistência linguística gratuitos estão disponíveis para você. Ajudas e serviços auxiliares apropriados para fornecer informações em formatos acessíveis também estão disponíveis gratuitamente. Ligue para 833-342-7463 (TTY:711) ou converse com seu prestador de serviços.

Russian: ВНИМАНИЕ: Если вы говорите на русский, вам доступны бесплатные услуги языковой поддержки. Соответствующие вспомогательные средства и услуги по предоставлению информации в доступных форматах также предоставляются бесплатно. Позвоните по телефону 833-342-7463 (TTY:711) или обратитесь к своему поставщику услуг.

Tagalog: PAALALA: Kung nagsasalita ka ng Tagalog, magagamit mo ang mga libreng serbisyonang tulong sa wika. Magagamit din nang libre ang mga naaangkop na auxiliary na tulong at serbisyo upang magbigay ng impormasyon sa mga naa-access na format. Tumawag sa 833-342-7463 (TTY:711) o makipag-usap sa iyong provider.”

Thai: หมายเหตุ: หากคุณใช้ภาษาไทย เรามีบริการความช่วยเหลือด้านภาษาฟรี นอกจากนี้ ยังมีเครื่องมือและบริการช่วยเหลือเพื่อให้ข้อมูลในรูปแบบที่เข้าถึงได้โดยไม่เสียค่าใช้จ่าย โปรดโทรติดต่อ 1-833-342-7463 (TTY: 711) หรือปรึกษาผู้ให้บริการของคุณ”

Vietnamese: LƯU Ý: Nếu bạn nói tiếng Việt, chúng tôi cung cấp miễn phí các dịch vụ hỗ trợ ngôn ngữ. Các hỗ trợ dịch vụ phù hợp để cung cấp thông tin theo các định dạng dễ tiếp cận cũng được cung cấp miễn phí. Vui lòng gọi theo số Người khuyết tật: 833-342-7463 (TTY:711) hoặc trao đổi với người cung cấp dịch vụ của bạn.”