

Template Waiting Room Article

Why Your Child Needs Influenza Vaccination

As a parent, you do everything you can to protect your child. You bring your child to the doctor for checkups. You get your child vaccinations because you know they are important. With vaccinations, you can protect your child from some serious diseases that years ago were common and often deadly.

Influenza, or what is sometimes called “the flu,” is one of those diseases that can be prevented with vaccination. Some people think that the influenza vaccine is not important because influenza is not very serious. That is not true! Each year, many people in the United States—including children—have to go to the hospital because of influenza and its complications. Some even die. Each year influenza causes nearly 100 deaths in American children younger than 5 years of age.

Influenza symptoms usually include a sudden fever, which is often very high. In addition, people with influenza usually have a dry cough, sore throat, runny or stuffy nose, headache and muscles aches and are very tired. Children may have stomach symptoms that are less common in adults, such as diarrhea, vomiting or nausea.

“Vaccination is the best way to protect your child from this serious disease,” says Dr. **[INSERT NAME]**. “You can get the vaccination through the fall and into the winter. You need a new vaccination every influenza season. Last year’s influenza vaccine won’t protect you this year,” Dr. **[INSERT NAME]** says.

One vaccination a year is all that is needed to protect against influenza, except for children younger than 9 years of age who are receiving influenza vaccination for the first time. These children require two vaccine doses, at least one month apart for the injectable vaccine and at least six weeks apart for the nasal vaccine, to ensure the highest amount of protection.

Talk to your child’s doctor today about influenza vaccination!

You can learn more about influenza by visiting www.PreventChildhoodInfluenza.org.