



Influenza (Flu)

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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.



What You Need to Know

Learn what to do if you are sick and what steps you should take to protect others.



What to do if you get sick

Stay home and avoid contact with other people except to get medical care.



What are Flu Antiviral Drugs?

Prescription medications called “antiviral drugs” can be used to treat flu illness.



Caring for Someone Sick

Find tips to care for others who are sick with flu illness.

Additional Resources

[About Flu](#)

[About This Flu Season](#)

[Prevent Flu](#)

[How to Mix Oseltamivir Capsules with Liquids for Children Who Cannot Swallow Them](#)

[Symptoms & Diagnosis](#)

[Factsheet: What You Should Know About Influenza \(Flu\) Antiviral Drugs](#)  [PDF – 176 KB]

[Antiviral Drug Supply](#)

Communication Resources

Access communication, education and partner materials!

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