

Recommended Vaccines for Healthcare Workers



On this Page

Healthcare workers (HCWs) are at risk for exposure to serious, and sometimes deadly, diseases. If you work directly with patients or handle material that could spread infection, you should get appropriate vaccines to reduce the chance that you will get or spread vaccine-preventable diseases. Protect yourself, your patients, and your family members. Make sure you are up-to-date with recommended vaccines.

Healthcare workers include physicians, nurses, emergency medical personnel, dental professionals and students, medical and nursing students, laboratory technicians, pharmacists, hospital volunteers, and administrative staff.

Vaccines	Recommendations in brief
<u>Hepatitis B</u>	<p>If you don't have documented evidence of a complete hepB vaccine series, or if you don't have an up-to-date blood test that shows you are immune to hepatitis B (i.e., no serologic evidence of immunity or prior vaccination) then you should</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Get the 3-dose series (dose #1 now, #2 in 1 month, #3 approximately 5 months after #2). • Get anti-HBs serologic tested 1–2 months after dose #3.
<u>Flu (Influenza)</u>	Get 1 dose of influenza vaccine annually.
<u>MMR (Measles, Mumps, & Rubella)</u>	<p>If you were born in 1957 or later and have not had the MMR vaccine, or if you don't have an up-to-date blood test that shows you are immune to measles, mumps, and rubella (i.e., no serologic evidence of immunity or prior vaccination), get 2 doses of MMR, 4 weeks apart.</p> <p>For HCWs born before 1957, see the ACIP recommendations at bottom of this table.</p>
<u>Varicella (Chickenpox)</u>	If you have not had chickenpox (varicella), if you haven't had varicella vaccine, or if you don't have an up-to-date blood test that shows you are immune to varicella (i.e., no serologic evidence of immunity or prior vaccination) get 2 doses of varicella vaccine, 4 weeks apart.
<u>Tdap (Tetanus, Diphtheria, Pertussis)</u>	Get a one-time dose of Tdap as soon as possible if you have not received Tdap previously (regardless of when previous dose of Td was received).

	<p>Get Td boosters every 10 years thereafter.</p> <p>Pregnant HCWs need to get a dose of Tdap during each pregnancy.</p>
Meningococcal	Those who are routinely exposed to isolates of <i>N. meningitides</i> should get one dose.

To learn more about these diseases and the benefits and potential risks associated with the vaccines, read the [Vaccine Information Statements \(VIS\)](#).

Published Recommendations

- [Immunization of HCW: Recommendations of ACIP](#). *MMWR*. 2011;60(RR07):1-45.
- [General Recommendations on Immunizations](#). *MMWR*. 2011;60(RR02):1-60.
- [ACIP Immunization Recommendations by specific disease](#)






State Immunization Laws

- [State Immunization Laws for Healthcare Workers and Patients](#)
Summarizes state immunization laws for healthcare workers, correctional inmates/residents, hospital inpatients, and developmentally disabled facility residents; search for information on vaccine administration, assessment, and Hepatitis B reporting.

Resources for More Information

- [HCW resources from Immunization Action Coalition](#)
- [Flu: Protect Your Patients. Protect Yourself](#)
Toolkit features a variety of helpful resource materials for healthcare institutions to implement or expand their healthcare worker immunization programs (from the Association for Professionals in Infection Control and Epidemiology (APIC)).
- [Increasing Flu Vaccination Rates among Healthcare Workers](#)
Position statements from professional organizations, mandatory influenza vaccination policies, and many helpful resources from the National Influenza Vaccine Summit's website.

Resources for Those Vaccinating HCWs

- [Healthcare Personnel Vaccination Recommendations](#)  [1 page] 
One-page reference sheet detailing the vaccines and conditions for vaccinating HCWs.
- [HCW web button](#)
Place this web button on your website so HCWs can quickly access this page to see what vaccines they need.
- [Healthcare personnel resources from Immunization Action Coalition](#)
 - ["Ask the Experts" MMR and HCW Questions and Answers](#) 
Answers to "If HCW develops rash after vaccinated, is he or she infectious?", "What is the recommendation?"
 - ["Ask the Experts" Flu and HCW Questions and Answers](#) 
Answers to "Which HCWs need the vaccine?", "Can NICU staff receive vaccine without compromising their neonates?" and more.
 - ["Ask the Experts" Hepatitis B and HCW Questions and Answers](#) 
Answers to "If HCW had one dose only 4 months ago, should series be restarted?", "Is it safe for HCWs to be vaccinated during pregnancy?" and more.
- [Flu Vaccination of Healthcare Personnel](#)