

# FLU VACCINE

## during the COVID-19 pandemic



Seasonal flu illnesses and COVID-19 both spread easily from person to person, but are caused by different viruses. Their similar symptoms may confuse people, delay diagnosis, or overwhelm testing centers and health care providers. Fortunately, we have a vaccine against influenza. While flu vaccines will not prevent COVID-19, they can prevent flu-related illness, hospitalizations, and deaths which will reduce the strain on health care workers and facilities during the COVID-19 pandemic.

### Why is it important for me and my family to get our flu vaccines this year?

- ▶ It is important to get your flu vaccine every year, but this year is especially important because we want to avoid getting sick when many hospitals and health care providers are busy responding to the COVID-19 pandemic.
- ▶ Give yourself some peace of mind. By protecting yourself against getting sick from the flu, you will have one less thing to worry about.
- ▶ Protecting yourself from getting the flu can help keep you from spreading it to those around you.



### Am I recommended to get a flu vaccine?

- ▶ Everyone who is **age 6 months and older** is strongly recommended to get a flu vaccine.
- ▶ Yes, even if you have an egg allergy, there are safe vaccines for you. If you had a reaction to a flu vaccine in the past, talk with a doctor or pharmacist about which of the flu vaccines is best for you.



### When should we get our flu vaccines?

- ▶ It is important to protect yourself and those around you before the flu starts to spread in your community. Since it takes about two weeks for the flu vaccine to fully protect you against the virus, the CDC recommends everyone age 6 months and older get a flu vaccine by **Halloween**.
- ▶ Health care providers all across Wisconsin are making sure that you can get vaccinated in a safe and convenient way. Many providers will have curbside or other physically distanced vaccination drives starting early September. If you have any questions, talk with your doctor or pharmacist.



### Make your vaccine appointment today!

- If you have health insurance, call your insurance provider to find out where you can get your vaccine.
- If you don't have a provider, use [vaccinefinder.gov](https://www.vaccinefinder.gov) to find a location near you. Be sure to call ahead to verify any costs. If cost is a concern, your children may be eligible for the [Vaccines for Children](#) program.

