

Mission:

To protect, promote & improve the health of all people in Florida through integrated state, county & community efforts.



Rick Scott
Governor

John H. Armstrong, MD, FACS
State Surgeon General & Secretary

Vision: To be the Healthiest State in the Nation

October 31, 2014

Dear Colleague:

With flu season almost here, the Florida Department of Health urges residents and visitors to take precautions to reduce their risk of infection. Influenza is a serious disease that can lead to hospitalization and sometimes even death. The best way to prevent the flu and flu-related complications is to receive an annual flu vaccination. The national Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices (ACIP) recommends that everyone 6 months of age and older get a flu vaccine. Since infants younger than 6 months of age are too young to get vaccinated against influenza, it is important that family members and other people who care for these children be vaccinated to help protect them from the disease.

Please continue to encourage your patients to adopt and sustain healthy habits such as frequent hand washing to limit the spread of flu, and promote public health and patient safety by ensuring your clinic has a policy for vaccinating health care personnel.

For more information regarding flu recommendations and vaccine locators, visit the following:

- Florida's Influenza webpage
<http://www.floridahealth.gov/prevention-safety-and-wellness/flu-prevention/index.html>
- Florida's Influenza Surveillance webpage
<http://www.floridahealth.gov/diseases-and-conditions/influenza/florida-influenza-weekly-surveillance.html>
- The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention webpage
<http://www.cdc.gov/flu/about/season/index.htm>

Thank you for your important contribution to protecting the health of those in the communities you serve. I look forward to a continued partnership in reducing the morbidity and mortality of influenza, to make Florida the healthiest state in the nation.

Sincerely,

John H. Armstrong, MD, FACS
Surgeon General & Secretary