FACT SHEET

FLU SUPPLY NEWS

Flu Vaccine – The Facts

How Vaccine Is Made

- Flu vaccine strains are grown in nearly 300 million live chicken eggs. The virus is then harvested, inactivated or attenuated, purified, mixed, and tested before being approved for release.
- Flu vaccine cannot be produced all at once. As a result, distributors and healthcare providers may not receive their vaccine all at once.

How Vaccine Reaches You

- During the 2007-2008 flu season, 50% of flu vaccine was sold to healthcare providers via distributors. (Distributors typically serve physician offices, extended care sites, hospitals, and others). Eight out of 10 doses of vaccine delivered via a distributor go to physician offices.
- The other 50% of flu vaccine during the 2007-2008 season was sold directly to healthcare providers by manufacturers. (Direct customers are typically pharmacies, hospitals, mass immunizers, retail stores, clinics and others.)

Vaccine Supply

- As many as 143 million to 146 million doses of flu vaccine are anticipated for the 2008-2009 influenza season – a record amount that represents approximately 25% more vaccine than last season.
  - All three flu virus strains used in the current influenza vaccine were changed for the 2008-2009 season – the first time in recent history that a shift has occurred in all strains.
  - Six manufacturers are approved to produce flu vaccine for the 2008-2009 season.
  - In total, an average of 94.8 million seasonal flu vaccine doses have been produced for the United States each year since 2000.

Source: HIDA Influenza Vaccine Production & Distribution Market Brief, 2007-2008

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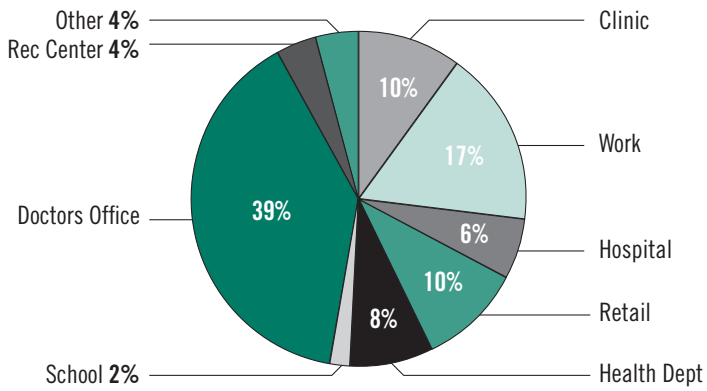
- More Americans get their flu shot from a physician's office than any other place.



Source: Centers for Disease Control and Prevention – Influenza Vaccine Supply Surveys 2005-06 (Gallup Results)

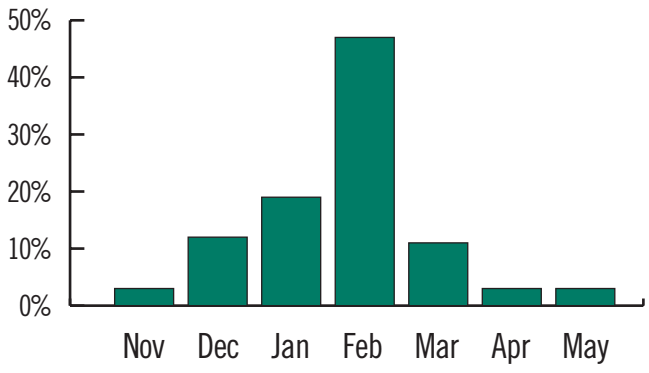
When to Get Vaccinated

- The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) recommend seasonal flu vaccination begin as soon as vaccine is available and by October if possible. Officials note that vaccinating in December and beyond is still beneficial.
  - "In any given year, the optimal time to vaccinate patients cannot be precisely determined because influenza seasons vary in their timing and duration, and more than one outbreak might occur in a single community in a single year."

Source: CDC. MMWR Early Release 2008: 57. July, 17, 2008. Page 31.

- Antibodies that protect against the flu virus develop about two weeks after vaccination.
- Influenza has peaked in January >80% of the time and peaked in February about >60% of the time during the past 30 or more flu seasons, reports the CDC.
- Annual vaccination protects against getting the flu and can make the illness milder if it is contracted.

Peak Influenza activity, by month — United States 1976-77 through 2007-08 influenza seasons



Source: CDC. MMWR Early Release 2008: 57. July 17, 2008. Page 5