

Provider Memorandum

Make the Most of the 2015-16 Flu Season!

Molina Healthcare of Illinois looks forward to partnering with our providers to make sure our patients are healthy this influenza (flu) season. We have adopted the Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices (ACIP) flu vaccine recommendations. ACIP continues to recommend yearly flu vaccinations for everyone who is at least 6 months of age and older. It's especially important that certain people get vaccinated, either because they are at high risk of having serious flu-related complications or because they live with or care for people at high risk for developing flu-related complications.

Below is a summary of the 2015-16 ACIP Recommendations:

- All persons aged ≥ 6 months should receive flu vaccine annually.
- For healthy children aged 2 through 8 years who have no contraindications or precautions, either LAIV or IIV is an appropriate option.
- For 2015–16, ACIP recommends that children aged 6 months through 8 years who have previously received ≥ 2 total doses of trivalent or quadrivalent flu vaccine before July 1, 2015, require only 1 dose for 2015–16.

LAIV should not be used in the following populations:

- Persons aged < 2 years or > 49 years
- Children aged 2 through 17 years who are receiving aspirin or aspirin-containing products
- Persons who have experienced severe allergic reactions to the vaccine or any of its components, or to a previous dose of any flu vaccine
- Pregnant women
- Immunocompromised persons
- Persons with a history of egg allergy
- Children aged 2 through 4 years who have asthma or who have had a wheezing episode
- Persons who have taken flu antiviral medications within the previous 48 hours
- Persons who care for severely immunosuppressed persons who require a protective environment should not receive LAIV, or should avoid contact with such persons for 7 days after receipt

For a complete copy of the ACIP recommendations and updates for the 2015 flu season, please visit the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention at <http://www.cdc.gov/flu/professionals/vaccination/>.

The flu vaccine is a covered benefit for all Molina Healthcare Members in Illinois. Members can receive the flu vaccine at a contracted pharmacy or at their PCP office.

Molina Healthcare 2015-16 Flu Outreach for Patients - Your patient may receive one or more of the following:

- Flu Reminder Postcard

- Newsletter
- Automated Outbound Messages

Office Tips for Flu Season:

- Educate patients on the importance of getting the flu vaccine and that the vaccine will not give patients the flu.
- Provide patients with a list of local pharmacies if you do not offer the flu vaccine. For a list of Molina Healthcare contracted Pharmacies, please visit <https://providersearch.molinahealthcare.com/Provider>. Click on “Find a Pharmacy” and select your State.
- Turn reminders/prompts “on” for patient records for the flu vaccine.

Thank you for your continued assistance in keeping our Members healthy this flu season!