

Seasonal influenza immunization rates among health-care workers

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Campaigns to increase seasonal influenza vaccination rates amongst health care workers in Canada that include a combination of interventions had the greatest effect on increasing vaccine coverage, according to a study published in *CMAJ* (Canadian Medical Association Journal).

Seasonal influenza immunization rates among health care workers in Canada remain below 50%, yet it is recommended that all health care workers (at least 90%) should be immunized to protect against the [flu virus](#).

Combined education/promotion and improved access to vaccines resulted in higher increases in vaccination rates amongst long-term care home workers. In one hospital campaign in which staff completed a mandatory electronic form to decline vaccination, immunization coverage increased to 55% compared to the previous nine years where rates ranged from 21% to 38%. When unvaccinated personnel were required to wear masks, rates increased to 52% from 33%.

"This review revealed gaps in the literature about the appropriate components to use to increase influenza immunization among [health care personnel](#)," writes Dr. Larry Chambers, Elisabeth Bruyère Research Institute, Ottawa, with coauthors.

The study, a systematic review of 12 studies, did not look at pandemic influenza programs.

The authors conclude that more studies with multiple campaign components are needed to assess the most appropriate [influenza](#) vaccination programs.

More information: www.cmaj.ca/cgi/doi/10.1503/cmaj.091304

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