

# 9 Facts Supporting Seasonal Influenza Vaccination

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) and South Dakota Department of Health (SD-DOH) would like to remind medical providers that influenza vaccination should be offered as long as influenza viruses are circulating (*into April*).

1. Flu killed an estimated 79,000 people, 600 of whom were children; hospitalized 960,000 people; and infected 49 million people. The 2017-2018 season was highly severe. <sup>(1)</sup>
2. Influenza vaccination coverage decreased 6% in South Dakota for persons 6 months of age and older for whom it was recommended; it decreased 5% nationally. <sup>(2)</sup>
3. South Dakotans aged 65 years and older were vaccinated at their lowest rate (47.7%) since routine reporting began in 2010; lower than the national rate (59.6%) for the first time. <sup>(3)</sup>
4. Vaccination reduces doctor's visits (i.e., vaccine effectiveness [VE]) by 40% for persons aged 6 months and older during the 2017-2018 season; VE hit 40% or more for 8 of the past 10 flu seasons. <sup>(4)</sup>
5. Vaccination reduces flu-associated death by 51% among children with underlying medical conditions and 65% among healthy kids. <sup>(3)</sup>
6. Vaccination reduces risk of flu hospitalization among pregnant women by 40%. <sup>(4)</sup>
7. Vaccination reduces risk of hospital admission by 37% among adults aged 18 years and older and risk of admission to the intensive care unit (ICU) by 82%. <sup>(5)</sup>
8. Among adults admitted to the hospital with flu, vaccination reduced risk of admission to the ICU by 59% and decreased the ICU length of stay by 4 days. <sup>(5)</sup>
9. Early treatment (within 4 days of illness onset) with antiviral medication of flu-hospitalized people 65 years and older decreased the length of stay. <sup>(7)</sup>



#### References:

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7. Chaves SS, Perez A, Miller L, et al. Impact of prompt influenza antiviral treatment on extended care needs after influenza hospitalization among community-dwelling older adults. *Clin Infect Dis*. 2015;61(12): 1807-1814.