

When should I get a flu shot?

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention recommends that people get vaccinated against influenza as soon as the flu season vaccine becomes available in their community. Influenza seasons are unpredictable and can begin as early as October.

It takes about two weeks after vaccination for antibodies to develop in the body and provide protection against the flu.

The flu vaccine is produced by private manufacturers, so availability depends on when production is completed. If everything goes as indicated by manufacturers, shipments are likely to begin in August and continue throughout September and October until all vaccines are distributed.

Doctors and nurses are encouraged to begin vaccinating their patients as soon as the flu vaccine is available in their areas, even as early as August. Many pharmacies also offer flu vaccinations.

Resources

- Centers for Disease Control and Prevention: www.cdc.gov
- Flu Vaccine Finder: <http://vaccinefinder.org>
- HealthCare.gov: www.healthcare.gov

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