

Flu Fighter Award Instructions



Introduction

The Department of Health, in cooperation with the Department of Social and Health Services, the Adult Family Home Council, the Washington Health Care Association, Leading Age Washington, and the Community Residential Services Association, is proud to announce a new immunization recognition program.

The Flu Fighter Facility Award is a program recognizing long-term care homes and facilities in Washington who obtain flu vaccination rates of at least 75% among their employees.

Each year, the flu disproportionately affects older adults in long term care facilities. Employees and patients who get the flu vaccine are much less likely to get serious complications from the flu or spread the flu to at-risk populations. This award shows community members, families, friends and employees that the facility has taken steps to protect their patients or residents from the flu.

The Flu Fighter Facility Award has three different award levels.

- Bronze Award: Facilities with 75 to 79% of their employees vaccinated from the flu
- Silver Award: Facilities with 80 to 89% of their employees vaccinated from the flu
- Gold Award: Facilities with 90% or more of their employees vaccinated from the flu
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Organizations who complete all required parts of the award process by March 15, 2021 will be recognized with the appropriate award level certificate, a Flu Fighter Facility 2021 window cling, and listed on the Flu Fighter Facility honor roll.

The Award Process

To qualify for the 2020-2021 Flu Fighter Facility Award, facilities must do the following:

- Fill out the initial registration survey no later than December 31, 2020.
- Select an employee flu vaccination barrier you will work to remove.
- Collect the percentage of employees vaccinated from the flu in your facility.
- Fill out the final survey sharing your results no later than March 15, 2021.

Step 1: Initial Registration Survey

[Fill out the registration survey](https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/W5BXR2B) (<https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/W5BXR2B>)

The registration survey will ask for your facility's information, point of contact, if you currently track employee influenza status, and the vaccination barrier your facility will focus on.

Facilities eligible for this award include:

- Adult Family Homes
- Assisted Living Facilities
- Continuing Care Retirement Facilities
- Multiple Function Facilities/Agencies
- Nursing Homes
- Supported Living Agencies
- Intermediate Care Facilities for Individuals with Intellectual Disabilities
- Enhanced Services Facilities

To request this document in another format, call 1-800-525-0127. Deaf or hard of hearing customers, please call 711 (Washington Relay) or email civil.rights@doh.wa.gov.

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If you are unsure if your specific workplace qualifies, please email us at flufighter@doh.wa.gov.

Step 2: Flu Vaccination Barriers

Facilities must choose their own flu vaccination barrier and decide how to address it. A barrier is chosen during the initial registration survey, listed in step 1. If you have difficulty coming up with ideas, the section below will provide sample barriers and how to overcome them.

Flu Barrier 1: Lack of Access to Vaccine

Addressed by:

- ☐ Providing free vaccine at the workplace
- ☐ Offering vaccine on all shifts
- ☐ Using a mobile cart to offer vaccine
- ☐ Providing staff with a voucher for vaccination at a drugstore or clinic
- ☐ Partner with a larger health care organization (e.g., hospital) to provide vaccinations
- ☐ Work with pharmacy consultants to offer influenza vaccinations with facility staff
- ☐ Work with visiting nurses associations or other community immunizers to provide vaccination on site
- ☐ Offer influenza vaccine at mandatory trainings, departmental conferences, and other meetings
- ☐ Choose your own strategy

Flu Barrier 2: Lack of Enthusiasm about Influenza Vaccination

Addressed by establishing a culture of prevention by:

- ☐ Publicizing a “vaccine day” to offer influenza vaccinations and vaccine education
- ☐ Encouraging employees via e-mail, posters, employee newsletters, and other communication tools to get the vaccine. Use the resources listed in the resource section below for help on messaging and benefits to vaccination.
- ☐ Tracking and reporting vaccination rates to staff and supervisors
- ☐ Reminding unvaccinated employees with e-mail, letters, encouragement from supervisors, and telephone calls
- ☐ Provide contests or incentives to get vaccinated, such as small gift cards, raffles, pizza party, etc.
- ☐ Vaccinate the medical director and all managers in front of the staff
- ☐ Choose your own strategy

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Flu Barrier 3: High Staff Turnover

Addressed by:

- ☐ Offer opportunities to be vaccinated at multiple times and locations convenient to all workers on all shifts during the flu season
- ☐ Educating and vaccinating staff as part of new employee orientations
- ☐ Establishing a process to determine and track proof of influenza vaccination each year for each employee
- ☐ Establishing a written influenza vaccination policy for employees
- ☐ Choose your own strategy

Flu Barrier 4: Lack of Culturally Appropriate Vaccination Services for Health Care Personnel

Addressed by:

- ☐ Distributing and utilizing materials from the [HHS National Standards for Culturally and Linguistically Appropriate Services in Health and Health Care](#)
- ☐ Providing educational materials in multiple languages, including
[CDC's Vaccine Information Statements](#)
[MedlinePlus: Flu – Multiple Languages](#)
- ☐ Choose your own strategy

Flu Barrier 5: Identify Your Own Barrier

- ☐ Choose your own strategy

Step 3: Employee Flu Vaccination

When facilities have addressed their flu barrier for the flu season and are ready to complete the final application survey, they will need to collect the percentage of employees that are vaccinated from the flu for the 2020-2021 flu season. Facilities do not need to report any specific or identifying information about their employees.

Employees are considered a part of the count if they are physically present in the facility or agency location for at least one working day from November 1, 2020 through February 14, 2021.

Final Survey

The Department of Health will email your facility contact when the final survey can be completed. Additionally, we will post the survey link on our Flu Fighter web page (www.doh.wa.gov/FluFighter) when it is ready. You must complete the steps one through three before you can complete the final survey.

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Resources

[Flu Vaccine Finder](#)

[Knock Out Flu At Work- Employer Flu Shot Clinic Toolkit \(PDF\)](#)

[Promoting Vaccination In The Workplace \(CDC\)](#)

[Healthcare Worker Immunization Toolkit \(IACW\)](#)

[Adult Vaccine Program](#)

[Influenza Information for Public Health and Healthcare](#)

[Department of Social and Health Services](#)

Contact Us

If you have any questions or comments about the Flu Fighter Facility Award program or other immunization/vaccination questions, please contact us at flufighter@doh.wa.gov.

Please note the Department of Health does not regulate or supervise long term care facilities. This program is voluntary for any organizations or facilities who wish to participate. The Flu Fighter Facility Award is made possible through the association member organizations, DSHS and DOH partnership.