

Avoid the Flu This Year: Get Your Flu Shot Before the End of October

The best way to prevent the flu and its potentially serious complications is by getting a yearly flu vaccine. Even when a flu vaccination does not prevent illness entirely, it has been shown in several studies to reduce the severity of illness in people who get vaccinated but still get sick.

The typical flu is active each year from October through April. An estimated 5 to 20 percent of Americans get the flu each year with symptoms lasting for up to two weeks.

The flu vaccine takes about two weeks to be effective, so it is important to get the vaccine as early as possible. During the two weeks after vaccination, antibodies develop in the body and provide protection against the flu. The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) recommends that everyone get a flu vaccine each year by the end of October.

Both Cigna and Kaiser Permanente have laid out detailed plans for getting this year's flu shot.

- [Cigna](#)
- [Kaiser Permanente](#)

Here are some other resources to show you how to protect yourself from colds and flu:

- [Healthy Habits to Help Prevent Flu](#) from the CDC
- [Cold remedies: What works, what doesn't, what can't hurt](#) from the Mayo Clinic
- [Protect Yourself from Seasonal Flu](#) from the Office of Disease Prevention and Health Promotion.
- [Vaccines protect what matters most](#) from Kaiser Permanente (English and Spanish)