

# Help protect your patients against flu season

 [pages.azblue.com/Help-ensure-all-patients-vaccines-are-up-to-date---DEC-2022.html](https://pages.azblue.com/Help-ensure-all-patients-vaccines-are-up-to-date---DEC-2022.html)

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Influenza, RSV, and COVID-19 cases are still on the rise in Arizona, with influenza and RSV circulating at significantly higher levels than typical for this time of year. Nationally, increases in flu activity are causing a record number of hospitalizations. Here in Arizona, BCBSAZ has responded to the surge in hospitalizations by reinstating a waiver of preservice review requirements for patient transitions to skilled nursing facilities.

One of the most important things you can do to keep your patients safe and out of the hospital is to make sure they have current influenza and COVID-19 vaccines.

More than 70% of flu-related hospitalizations occur in adults over age 65. Our senior population is vulnerable to severe complications from respiratory viruses due to a prevalence of underlying conditions such as lung or heart disease or a weakened immune system.

Patients are more likely to be vaccinated when they hear a strong vaccination recommendation from their healthcare provider. As we head into the winter holidays and recognize National Influenza Immunization Week, please help keep your patients safe by ensuring they are up to date on their vaccines.

You can find more information for health professionals about clinical evaluation, treatment, and vaccination on the CDC's website. Facilities interested in requesting an on-site COVID-19 booster clinic can connect with the Health Services Advisory Group's pharmacy partnership.

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