

Midway Nursing Home
69-95 Queens Midtown Expressway
Maspeth, N.Y. 11378
Phone: 718-429-2200 Fax: 718 898-7582

September 10, 2020

Dear Midway Nursing Home Resident Representative,

It is time once again for us to protect ourselves and our loved ones from the "flu". Influenza (Flu) is a contagious disease that spreads throughout the United States each year, usually between the months of October and May. Please see enclosed *Vaccine Information Statements*.

During this pandemic of COVID – 19, the risk of contracting the flu is much higher. Flu is caused by the Influenza virus and is spread mainly through coughing and close contact. Anyone can contract the flu. Flu strikes suddenly and can last several days. Symptoms vary by age, but can include fever/chills, sore throat, muscle aches, fatigue, cough, headache, runny or stuffy nose. Influenza can also lead to Pneumonia and blood infections and can cause diarrhea and seizures in children. If you have a medical condition such as heart or lung disease, flu can make it worse.

Pneumococcal Disease is caused by bacteria that can spread from person to person through close contact. It can cause ear infections, and it could also lead to more serious infections of the lungs (Pneumonia), Blood (Bacteremia), and covering of the brain and spinal cord (Meningitis). Anyone can contract Pneumococcal Disease, but children under 2 years of age and adults 65 years and older, people with certain medical conditions, and cigarette smokers are at the highest risks.

Receiving the **Flu vaccine** can prevent you from contracting the flu, or experience a less severe case if diagnosed and prevent you acting as a carrier, spreading flu to your family members and others. **This is an annual vaccine.** The trivalent influenza vaccine protects you from 3 different strains of Influenza. The vaccine is different each year because there are so many different strains of influenza and the active influenza strain changes each year.

We are providing all recommended and required vaccines at Midway Nursing Home, but we need consent to administer them. Please complete the enclosed form for vaccine consent/refusal and return it to Midway Nursing Home as soon as possible. The Infection Preventionist, RN Unit Managers and RN Supervisors can take a verbal consent/refusal over the phone if that is easier for you.

Signed consent/refusal can be addressed to:

Shameila Bacchus, RN BSN
Midway Nursing Home
69-95 Queens Midtown Expressway, Maspeth, N.Y. 11378

Please call Midway Nursing Home between 11:00 AM and 4:00 PM and ask to speak with the Infection Control Preventionist if you have any questions.

Thank you,



Shameila Bacchus, RN BSN
Infection Control Preventionist

Midway Nursing Home Vaccination Consent Form

Resident Name: _____

Room: _____

Influenza Vaccine Consent

Resident/Representative requesting the vaccine

Resident/Representative refused the vaccine

Received vaccine this season in the hospital/community

- Influenza vaccine information sheet provided (CDC VIS publication dated 8/15/2019) and resident/representative verbalize understanding.
- Risks/benefits explained to resident/representative.

I have read the Vaccine Information Statement about influenza vaccination. I understand that I can ask questions and that if I did call the facility, my questions were answered to my satisfaction and I understand the risks and benefits of the vaccine as described. I authorize the release of any medical or other information necessary to process this claim.

Resident/Representative Signature: _____ Date: _____

RN Signature: _____

Date: _____

VACCINE INFORMATION STATEMENT

Influenza (Flu) Vaccine (Inactivated or Recombinant): *What you need to know*

Many Vaccine Information Statements are available in Spanish and other languages. See www.immunize.org/vis

Hojas de Información sobre vacunas están disponibles en español y en muchos otros idiomas. Visite www.immunize.org/vis

1 Why get vaccinated?

Influenza vaccine can prevent influenza (flu).

Flu is a contagious disease that spreads around the United States every year, usually between October and May. Anyone can get the flu, but it is more dangerous for some people. Infants and young children, people 65 years of age and older, pregnant women, and people with certain health conditions or a weakened immune system are at greatest risk of flu complications.

Pneumonia, bronchitis, sinus infections and ear infections are examples of flu-related complications. If you have a medical condition, such as heart disease, cancer or diabetes, flu can make it worse.

Flu can cause fever and chills, sore throat, muscle aches, fatigue, cough, headache, and runny or stuffy nose. Some people may have vomiting and diarrhea, though this is more common in children than adults.

Each year **thousands of people in the United States die from flu**, and many more are hospitalized. Flu vaccine prevents millions of illnesses and flu-related visits to the doctor each year.

2 Influenza vaccine

CDC recommends everyone 6 months of age and older get vaccinated every flu season. **Children 6 months through 8 years of age** may need 2 doses during a single flu season. **Everyone else** needs only 1 dose each flu season.

It takes about 2 weeks for protection to develop after vaccination.

There are many flu viruses, and they are always changing. Each year a new flu vaccine is made to protect against three or four viruses that are likely to cause disease in the upcoming flu season. Even when the vaccine doesn't exactly match these viruses, it may still provide some protection.

Influenza vaccine does not cause flu.

Influenza vaccine may be given at the same time as other vaccines.

3 Talk with your health care provider

Tell your vaccine provider if the person getting the vaccine:

- Has had an **allergic reaction after a previous dose of influenza vaccine**, or has any **severe, life-threatening allergies**.
- Has ever had **Guillain-Barré Syndrome** (also called GBS).

In some cases, your health care provider may decide to postpone influenza vaccination to a future visit.

People with minor illnesses, such as a cold, may be vaccinated. People who are moderately or severely ill should usually wait until they recover before getting influenza vaccine.

Your health care provider can give you more information.



U.S. Department of
Health and Human Services
Centers for Disease
Control and Prevention

4 Risks of a vaccine reaction

- Soreness, redness, and swelling where shot is given, fever, muscle aches, and headache can happen after influenza vaccine.
- There may be a very small increased risk of Guillain-Barré Syndrome (GBS) after inactivated influenza vaccine (the flu shot).

Young children who get the flu shot along with pneumococcal vaccine (PCV13), and/or DTaP vaccine at the same time might be slightly more likely to have a seizure caused by fever. Tell your health care provider if a child who is getting flu vaccine has ever had a seizure.

People sometimes faint after medical procedures, including vaccination. Tell your provider if you feel dizzy or have vision changes or ringing in the ears.

As with any medicine, there is a very remote chance of a vaccine causing a severe allergic reaction, other serious injury, or death.

5 What if there is a serious problem?

An allergic reaction could occur after the vaccinated person leaves the clinic. If you see signs of a severe allergic reaction (hives, swelling of the face and throat, difficulty breathing, a fast heartbeat, dizziness, or weakness), call 9-1-1 and get the person to the nearest hospital.

For other signs that concern you, call your health care provider.

Adverse reactions should be reported to the Vaccine Adverse Event Reporting System (VAERS). Your health care provider will usually file this report, or you can do it yourself. Visit the VAERS website at www.vaers.hhs.gov or call 1-800-822-7967. *VAERS is only for reporting reactions, and VAERS staff do not give medical advice.*

6 The National Vaccine Injury Compensation Program

The National Vaccine Injury Compensation Program (VICP) is a federal program that was created to compensate people who may have been injured by certain vaccines. Visit the VICP website at www.hrsa.gov/vaccinecompensation or call 1-800-338-2382 to learn about the program and about filing a claim. There is a time limit to file a claim for compensation.

7 How can I learn more?

- Ask your healthcare provider.
- Call your local or state health department.
- Contact the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC):
 - Call 1-800-232-4636 (1-800-CDC-INFO) or
 - Visit CDC's www.cdc.gov/flu

Vaccine Information Statement (Interim)
**Inactivated Influenza
Vaccine**



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