Doctor’s orders: Get your flu shot!

As flu season arrives, public health officials are going on the offensive advocating for improved vaccination rates, especially among healthcare workers.

“Last season illustrated what every public health official knows—influenza can be serious in people of all ages, even in the healthiest children and adults,” U.S. Surgeon General Dr. Jerome Adams said before rolling up his sleeve to get a flu shot late last month. “It is critical that we focus national attention on the importance of influenza vaccination to protect as many people as possible every season.”

All data are for the 2017-18 flu season. The U.S. flu season begins in October and peaks anywhere from late November through March.

900,000
Estimated hospitalizations

80,000
Estimated flu-related deaths

180
Flu-related pediatric deaths, exceeding the previous high of 171 in 2012-13

Positive influenza tests reported to the CDC by public laboratories, by type

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Type</th>
<th>Count</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>A (H3)</td>
<td>32,396</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>A (H1N1) pdm09</td>
<td>5,933</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>A (Subtyping not performed)</td>
<td>524</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>B (Lineage unspecified)</td>
<td>3,318</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>B (Victoria lineage)</td>
<td>1,348</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>B (Yamagata lineage)</td>
<td>11,198</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Not listed on the chart:
A(H1): 0
A (Unable to subtype): 0
H3N2v: 3

78.4% Overall vaccination rate among healthcare workers
94.8% Compliance rate where there was an employer mandate to get one
47.6% Compliance rate in workplaces where it is voluntary

—Centers for Disease Control and Prevention