

TO: EZIZ Users
FROM: CDPH
SUBJECT: Children with Neurologic Conditions at High-Risk for Flu Complications: Protect Them with Flu Vaccine
DATE: 10/12/15

Dear EZIZ Users:

Children with Neurologic Conditions are Vulnerable

Children with neurologic conditions (e.g., disorders of the brain and spinal cord, cerebral palsy, epilepsy, stroke, intellectual disability, moderate to severe developmental delay, muscular dystrophy, and spinal cord injury) are very vulnerable to developing severe influenza, which can result in hospitalization or death.

Vaccination is the Best Protection against Flu

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention and the California Department of Public Health urge health care providers to strongly recommend flu vaccine to everyone 6 months of age and older, [especially children with neurologic conditions](#) and their contacts. Many children, including those with neurologic conditions, are missing opportunities to be vaccinated.*

Three out of four parents report that you—their child’s health provider—are the main source of information about vaccines, including the flu shot. We urge you to take the time to educate parents about the importance of flu vaccine for their children.

Treat Sick Patients Promptly

CDC recommends that health care providers treat flu illness promptly with [antiviral medications](#) for those with underlying medical conditions that increase the risk of severe influenza.

For more information, visit the [CDC developmental disabilities webpage](#).

* Influenza vaccination in children with neurologic or neurodevelopmental disorders, Michael J. Smith, et al., *Vaccine*, doi:10.1016/j.vaccine.2015.03.050, published online 30 March 2015, [abstract](#).