**Why is flu vaccination so important during the COVID-19 pandemic?**

COVID-19 has created logistical challenges for the efficient delivery of the flu vaccine, which should be given to the public and alike be monitored to maximize protection for the most vulnerable. This year, the flu vaccine will be delivered alongside vaccines for COVID-19. This could present logistical challenges that may impact the targeted age groups between the two vaccines, and will deliver a vaccine in a way that will maximize uptake of vaccines for both flu and COVID-19.

### To protect the most vulnerable this flu season, policymakers and health service planners must...

**1.** Protect against the risks of an unpredictable flu season

**2.** Address possible complacency about the seriousness of flu

**3.** Ease the double burden of flu and COVID-19 on health systems

**4.** Maximize protection for those most vulnerable to flu and COVID-19

### Priority groups for flu vaccination

- **Older people**
  - Account for the highest proportion of deaths from flu and COVID-19.

- **Health care workers**
  - Are frequently absent from work due to illness, and will be vaccinated.

- **People who are pregnant**
  - Are at increased risk of hospitalization owing to the consequences of both flu and COVID-19.

- **Children**
  - If too young to be vaccinated, children can catch flu at the same time as their parents. They are more likely to become seriously ill, put their family at risk, and may infect others who are more vulnerable.

- **Babies and young children**
  - Are particularly susceptible to flu if they have never been exposed to it. They are also at risk of severe complications from flu (e.g., pneumonia).

- **Priority groups**
  - Include those who are eligible for reimbursed vaccination (e.g., people at risk of severe flu illness or death, such as those with asthma, lung disease, heart disease, neurological conditions, diabetes, obesity, chronic kidney disease, HIV/AIDS or from treatment such as chemotherapy).

- **Further information**

### References


