

FactSheet

Para Su Información

Fight the Flu at Work

The workplace is a breeding ground for flu-causing germs. Employees often come to work when they're sick, which exposes others to the virus. Germs can live for two hours or more on surfaces like doorknobs, phones, desks and tables.

How do I prevent spreading the flu?

Prevent the spread of germs by covering your mouth when you sneeze or cough.

- Cover your mouth and nose with a tissue when coughing or sneezing. Throw away the tissue after use.
- If a tissue is not available, cough or sneeze into your sleeve or into the crook of your elbow.
- Do not cough or sneeze into your hand.
- Wash your hands frequently and for at least 30 seconds in warm, soapy water.
- If water or soap is not available, use an alcohol-based hand sanitizer or disposable hand wipes.
- Make sure to distance yourself from other people by at least three feet when coughing or sneezing.
- Clean and disinfect your phone, keyboard and mouse regularly.
- Avoid touching your eyes, nose or mouth.

Practice good health habits:

- Sleep at least eight hours each night.
- Eat nutritious food.
- Drink plenty of fluids.
- Manage stress.
- Be physically active.

Is the flu shot really an effective way to prevent the flu?

A flu shot can reduce the chances of getting influenza up to 90 percent in young, healthy adults.

Shots are highly recommended for:

- Children age 6 months to 5 years
- Household contacts and caregivers of infants under 6 months old
- Pregnant women
- People age 50 or over
- People with certain chronic medical conditions, as well as their household contacts and caregivers

The flu shot is not recommended for:

- Infants under 6 months old
- People with allergies to eggs
- People who have had an adverse reaction to flu shots or nasal flu spray in the past
- People with a history of Guillain-Barré syndrome, a disorder that attacks the peripheral nervous system

What should I do if I get sick?

- Stay home, rest and resist the urge to go to work.
- Healthy adults may infect others one day before getting symptoms and up to five days after getting sick. You may be spreading the flu without even realizing it.
- Keeping your distance from others will stop others from catching the flu.
- Drink plenty of liquids, and avoid using alcohol and tobacco.



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