Fluzone High-Dose Influenza Vaccine
Answers to frequently asked questions

The best way to prevent influenza is by getting influenza vaccine every year. Older adults are especially at risk. Fluzone high-dose influenza vaccine can help provide the extra protection older adults need.

What is Fluzone high-dose influenza vaccine?
Fluzone high-dose influenza vaccine was developed specifically for people 65 years and older to protect against influenza. The vaccine is given as a shot (injection).
The high-dose vaccine is made up of the 3 strains of influenza viruses most likely to cause influenza during the upcoming season.
As with the standard influenza vaccine, Fluzone high-dose does not cause the flu. Influenza vaccines contain viruses that are killed or weakened.

How strong is Fluzone high-dose?
Fluzone high-dose vaccine is stronger than the standard influenza vaccine. The high-dose vaccine contains 4 times the antigen compared to the standard influenza vaccine.
Antigens are the substances in the vaccine that cause your body’s immune system to make antibodies. Antibodies help your body fight against disease.

Is Fluzone high-dose new?
Fluzone high-dose influenza vaccine has been available since 2010.

Why do people 65 years and older need Fluzone high-dose?
As you get older, your immune system weakens. If you are 65 years or older, you are at greater risk for serious complications from influenza.
Aging also decreases your body’s ability to produce a good immune response (make antibodies) after getting influenza vaccine. With the additional antigen in the high-dose vaccine, your body can produce a stronger immune response (create more antibodies) to help fight off influenza viruses.

How effective is Fluzone high-dose?
Research shows Fluzone high-dose influenza vaccine is more effective in preventing influenza in older adults compared to the standard influenza vaccine.

What are possible side effects of Fluzone high-dose?
Side effects of the high-dose influenza vaccine are similar to the standard influenza vaccine. However, the side effects may occur more often. Mild side effects include:
- Pain, redness and swelling at the injection site
- Headache and muscle ache
- Fever
- Low energy and general discomfort
Serious side effects are extremely rare.