

**INFLUENZA** is a highly contagious viral infection. About 20% of Americans get the flu each year. It can be spread through coughing, sneezing or coming into close contact with others. Flu season is highest in winter, but it can happen any time of year and can be mild or severe. Although many are able to recover from the flu, it can be a very serious or deadly illness for young children, older adults, pregnant women and those who have health problems. The best way to reduce your chances of becoming infected with the flu is to get the flu vaccine every year.

