

Influenza Prevention Based on Chain Of Infection		
Link in Chain of Infection	Influenza Implications	Notes for pharmacy staff
Infectious agent	Present in environment during flu season	<input type="checkbox"/> Be aware of current strains and case reporting requirements <input type="checkbox"/> Watch the CDC website https://www.cdc.gov/flu/index.htm
Reservoir	Potentially everyone, some higher risk	<input type="checkbox"/> Promote annual vaccination in everyone age 6 months or older
Portal of exit	Droplets	Tell patients to... <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> Limit contact with people who appear to be sick <input type="checkbox"/> Isolate themselves if they have the flu and stay home for at least 24 hours or until the fever resolves <input type="checkbox"/> Wash sheets, pillow cases and blankets weekly and hot water and separate each household members personal items (e.g. toothbrushes, razors) <input type="checkbox"/> Remind all household members to use disposable tissues, cover their mouths when sneezing or blowing their noses, and wash their hands immediately afterward. <input type="checkbox"/> Ensure infected family members have trash cans nearby to dispose of tissues and wipes; educate each household member to avoid placing soiled tissues on the ground or nearby surfaces <input type="checkbox"/> Remind people to keep their hands away from the face and mouth.
Transmission	Organism can remain active on environmental surfaces	<input type="checkbox"/> Remind patients to disinfect objects and surfaces such as telephones, computer keyboards, light switches, door knobs, remotes, and children's toys <input type="checkbox"/> The Environmental Protection Agency only allows manufacturers to use words like "sanitize" or "disinfect" on products that have proven ability to kill germs; look for these products. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The most commonly used products are Pine Sol, Clorox, and Lysol • Lemon juice, lavender, and tea tree oil or natural products that have disinfectant properties • A mixture of 1/4 cup chlorine bleach to 1 gallon hot water will also disinfect <input type="checkbox"/> Consider using washing machine or the dishwasher to clean communal items; many items can be washed in these appliances, and using hot settings and soap can disinfect

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Portal of entry	Nose/mouth	<input type="checkbox"/> Advise frequent handwashing (BEST PREVENTIVE METHOD) with soap and water, especially before eating and after using the bathroom. <input type="checkbox"/> If soap is unavailable, alcohol-based hand rubs with at least 60% alcohol are recommended <input type="checkbox"/> Evidence that facemasks prevent influenza transmission is lacking but CDC recommends facemasks when <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Healthcare personnel enter a room belonging to a patient with suspected or confirmed influenza • Patients with suspected influenza leave their rooms, must leave home, or enter a healthcare facility
Vulnerable hosts	Everyone; some people at greater risk	Promote annual influenza immunization, especially among high-risk groups <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Children younger than five, especially those younger than 2 • Adults 65 years of age and older • Pregnant women and women up to 2 weeks postpartum • Residents of nursing homes and other long-term care facilities • Native Americans and Alaska Natives
Sources: 10, 12-14		