

- FACT:** Pneumonia and influenza together are the third leading cause of death in San Francisco. Nationally, they are the 6th leading cause of death.
- FACT:** Approximately 69.3 million working days are lost due to flu each year in the United States.
- FACT:** The total number of restricted-activity days due to flu in the U.S. is estimated at 315.4 million per year.
- FACT:** Flu is responsible for approximately 170 million sick days in bed each year in the United States.
- FACT:** Influenza can be prevented with a safe, effective vaccine.
- FACT:** The annual direct medical costs of influenza are estimated at up to \$4.6 billion in the United States. Total direct and indirect costs of a severe flu epidemic in the U.S. are at least \$12 billion.
- FACT:** You cannot get influenza from the vaccine.
- FACT:** Influenza can worsen chronic heart disease, lung disease, and bacterial or viral pneumonia. It can also lead to hospitalization and death, especially among the elderly and chronically ill.
- FACT:** Influenza vaccine will not protect you from other respiratory infections, such as colds and bronchitis, commonly called “the flu.”
- FACT:** Influenza vaccine can prevent up to 60% of hospitalizations and up to 80% of deaths from influenza-related complications.
- FACT:** As many as 20,000 Americans die each year from flu-related illness.
- FACT:** Since influenza viruses change from year to year, an annual influenza shot is necessary each fall.

Sources

1. International Influenza Education Panel
2. National Centers for Disease Control (CDC)
3. National Coalition for Adult Immunization
4. San Francisco Department of Public Health, Office of Vital Records and Statistics