

# Improving Resident Influenza Immunization Rate at an Assisted Living Facility

Maureen Stable Beck DNP, APRN, GNP-BC

## Abstract

Influenza immunization rates in the United States hover around 60% for people 65 years of age and older. Healthy People 2020 set a target rate of 90% for flu immunization. The influenza vaccine can reduce disease and expense with approximately 7 million flu related diseases, 109,000 hospital admissions, and 8,000 deaths prevented. A local assisted living had an unusually low influenza immunization rate last year of 40%. The goal of the quality improvement project was to increase the rate of influenza immunizations in this facility. The rationale was that by providing education, promoting the event, and increasing direct communication with families and residents through phone call and emails the rate would improve. A collaborative project was begun in the summer of 2018. Approval was received by IRB and the facility administrators. Plans were made for two presentations to family and residents, promotional advertisement, family communication, and a scheduled flu day with the pharmacy. The presentation provided flu history and facts and myths about the immunization. Correct answers were rewarded with bookmarks with flu information. The assisted living director provided follow-up immunization data. Compared to the previous year, the immunization rate increased to 90%, counting immunizations on flu shot day and records of outside immunizations. Data concerning flu incidence from the 2017-2018 and 2018-2019 seasons will be requested to determine project impact. A partnership between primary care providers and long term care facilities focused on improving standards or meeting metrics can enhance care for your patient and the community

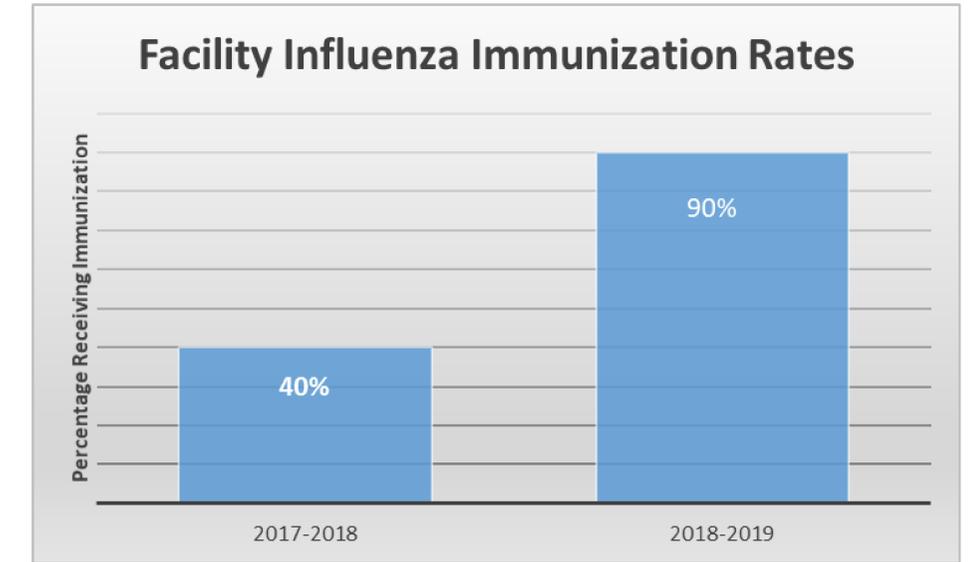
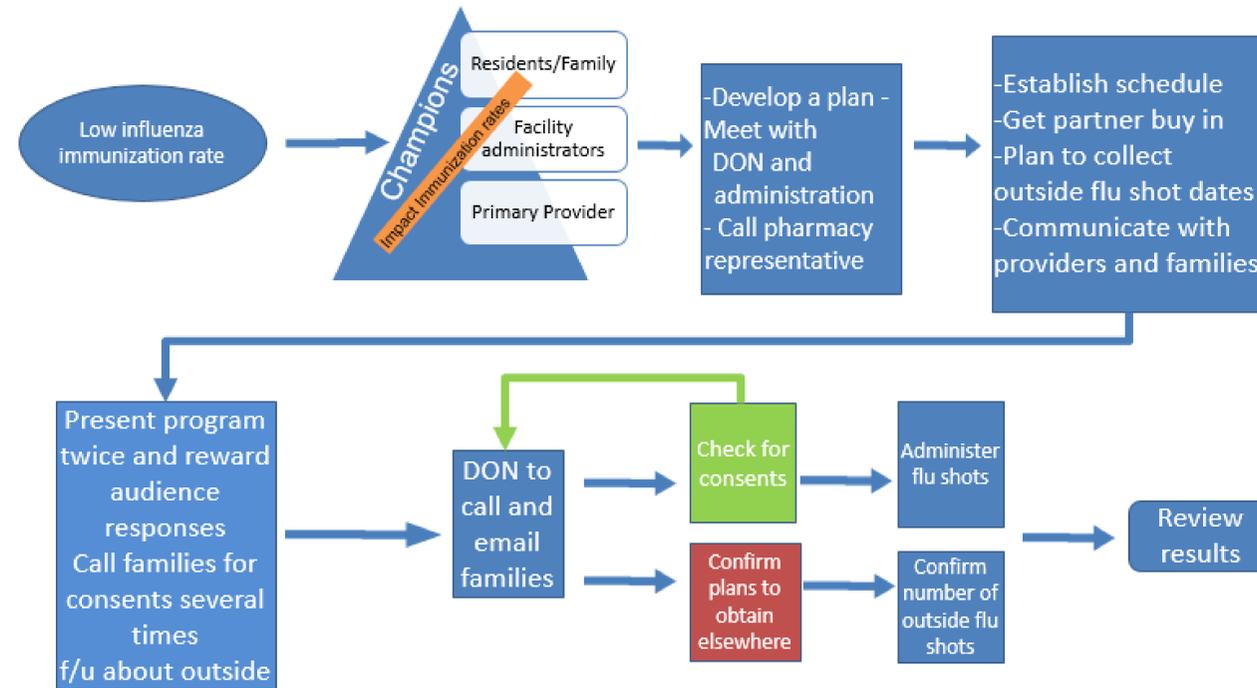
## Assisted Living Facts

Facilities expect to grow by more than 3% annually.  
 In Texas >55% of residents are over 85  
 Nationally there are >800,000 residents and 15,836 facilities  
 ADL assistance needed: 64% bathing 57% washing 48% dressing  
 Top diagnosis: HTN, arthritis, dementia  
 Average number of medications 7 with 3.56SD  
 Average influenza rate nationally 65 and older 65%  
 Average Immunization rate in AL unknown

**Champions**  
 DON, Facility Administrator, Corporate

**Facility Statistics**  
 Three levels of assisted living  
 Number of residents 140-145  
 Number of primary providers >10

## Project Pathway



## Summary

Collaboration between primary care providers and long term care facilities can produce successful results. A provider can impact the health of their patients and the facility community through preventive care practices. When your patient joins a long term care facility such as an assisted living or a nursing home, their health can depend on the health of the facility. While nursing homes have a mandate to immunize their residents, assisted living facilities in Texas do not. Immunizations are voluntary for residents and staff. This facility's resident immunization rate improved by 125% through a collaborative effort with a UTPhysicians House Call primary care provider, a pharmacy, and the facility administration. Key elements were educational outreach to residents and families, follow up for flu consent completion, and documentation of any outside flu immunizations

## References

Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. (2018). Estimates of Influenza Vaccination Coverage among Adults—United States, 2017–18 Flu Season Retrieved from <https://www.cdc.gov/flu/fluavxview/coverage-1718estimates.htm>  
 Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. (2018). Misconceptions about Seasonal Flu and Flu Vaccines. Retrieved from <https://www.cdc.gov/flu/about/qa/misconceptions.htm>  
 Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. (2019). Estimated Influenza Illnesses, Medical Visits, and Hospitalizations Averted by Vaccination. Retrieved from <https://www.cdc.gov/flu/about/burden-averted/index.htm>  
 Lansbury, L. E., Brown, C. S., & Nguyen-Van-Tam, J.S. (2017). Influenza in long-term care facilities. *Influenza and other respiratory viruses*, 11(5), 356-366.  
 Nace, D. A., Perera, S., Handler, S. M., Muder, R., & Hoffman, E. L. (2011). Increasing influenza and pneumococcal immunization rates in a nursing home network. *Journal of the American Medical Directors Association*, 12(9), 678-684. doi: 10.1016/j.jamda.2010.05.002  
 Texas Health and Human Services. (2018). Prepare for flu season-vaccinate your residents and staff now! Retrieved from <https://hhs.texas.gov/about-hhs/communications-events/news/2018/10/prepare-flu-season-vaccinate-your-residents-staff-now>  
 Texas Health and Human Services. (2019). QMP Monthly Bulletin – January 2019. Flu Season-Influenza is increasing across the state. Are you prepared? Retrieved from <https://hhs.texas.gov/about-hhs/communications-events/news/2019/01/qmp-monthly-bulletin-january-2019>  
 Texas Health and Human Services. (n.d.). Influenza and pneumococcal vaccinations. <https://hhs.texas.gov/doing-business-hhs/provider-portals/long-term-care-providers/nursing-facilities/quality-monitoring-program/evidence-based-best-practices/influenza-pneumococcal-vaccinations>