



As Flu Season and COVID-19 Converge, Flu Vaccination and Education Are Even More Essential

By Jeffrey A. Murawsky, MD FACP | Chief Medical Director

As public health officials warn of the upcoming flu season overlapping with the COVID-19 pandemic, flu vaccinations have never been more important.

Experts at the National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases and the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) are urging everyone to get a flu vaccination this fall. They, like many other public health officials, worry about health systems that are already stressed by large numbers of COVID-19 patients being overwhelmed by patients sick with the flu.

According to a [2019 survey](#), 60% of adults think the flu vaccine is the best preventive measure against flu-related hospitalizations and deaths, but only 52% said they planned to get vaccinated. Furthermore, 18% said they were unsure about getting vaccinated.

The [CDC](#) has reported Influenza/Pneumonia as the ninth leading cause of death in Nevada.

This season, there's reason to believe increasing vaccination rates will be even more challenging. The CDC has already noted a decline in child vaccinations as parents have decided to forgo preventive care during the novel coronavirus outbreak. While it's typically encouraged to receive a flu vaccine by the end of October, there's still a benefit to getting the flu vaccine later in the season, since flu season can extend into March or April.

To help reduce flu-related illness and hospitalizations in Nevada, SilverSummit Healthplan will be regularly communicating with members to make a plan to get their flu vaccines. Its members can receive a free flu vaccination through their doctor or at a local

Flu Prevention is a Win-Win

There are many advantages to promoting flu prevention:



Healthier patients



Decreased severity of illness for those who do get sick



Reduced community spread



Providers may earn **financial incentives** based on our **Pay for Performance** program

**Remember, you can help stop the flu!
Strongly recommend to all of your patients
to get their annual flu shot.**

pharmacy. Additionally, SilverSummit providers will receive messaging toolkits to help them strengthen how they communicate with their patients about getting their annual flu vaccination. That's important, because the health plan's research shows that one of the main reasons people get a flu vaccination is because their doctors recommend it. SilverSummit Healthplan will also be sharing flu prevention tips and promoting healthy behaviors, including good hygiene, as part of its Fluvention® program.

Many of the [symptoms of flu and COVID-19 are similar](#), so it can be difficult to tell the difference between them based on symptoms alone. While there is currently no vaccine for COVID-19, flu vaccinations and good hygiene – like washing hands and covering coughs and sneezes – are still your best line of defense to prevent the flu. While everyone 6 months of age and older should get the flu vaccine, the CDC notes it is especially important for pregnant

women, children younger than age 5, people age 65 and older, or people of any age with certain chronic medical conditions.

Flu season may look different this year, but the importance of prevention remains the same. Talk to your doctor about the flu vaccine, the steps you can take to stay healthy this season, and consider joining the millions of people who will get their flu shot this year. It's the best way to keep yourself and those around you healthy this flu season.

About SilverSummit Healthplan

[SilverSummit Healthplan](#) is a managed care plan that delivers quality health insurance to the people of Nevada. Established in 2017, SilverSummit is committed to improving the health of its members through focused, compassionate, and coordinated care. SilverSummit's active community involvement reaches beyond physical and mental health. We are dedicated to improve the quality of life, one person at a time. [SilverSummit Healthplan](#) is a diversified healthcare organization that offers healthcare services through Nevada Medicaid. For more information on SilverSummit, you may visit www.silversummithealthplan.com.

Doing Business with us should be easy! Paying claims timely is important to us.

In the third Quarter SSHP Medicaid received approximately 59,000 claims. Over 99% of those claims were processed in 30 days or less. SSHP's average claims payment turnaround time is 9 days. If you have questions or concerns please outreach to the Provider Services team for assistance!



Provider Services: 1-844-366-2880, TDD/TTY: 1-844-804-6086
Provider Relations: NVSS_ProviderRelations@SilverSummitHealthPlan.com
Contracting: NETWORKMGMTNV@SilverSummitHealthPlan.com

Mailing Address:
SilverSummit Healthplan
Attn: Provider Relations
2500 North Buffalo Drive, Ste 250
Las Vegas, NV 89128

Claims Address:
SilverSummit Healthplan
Attn: Claims
PO Box 5090
Farmington MO 63640-5090