

Children and the Flu

Influenza (flu) is different from the common cold. The flu can be more severe for children. The flu usually comes on suddenly and is often accompanied by fever, aches, chills and extreme tiredness. A cold is usually less severe and often includes a runny nose. Parents should visit their child's doctor as quickly as possible if they notice flu symptoms in their child, as there are prescription medicines available for the flu.

Children with the flu should stay home from school, daycare or play groups for at least 24 hours after their fever breaks



Children younger than **5**, especially those younger than **2**, are particularly vulnerable

Each year an average of

20,000

children under the age of 5 are hospitalized because of influenza-related complications

**CHILDREN ARE
2-3x**

**MORE LIKELY THAN
ADULTS TO GET SICK
WITH THE FLU**

In both children and adults, flu symptoms can include **fever, headache, muscle and body aches, fatigue and cough**. Children can have additional flu symptoms that are less common in adults, including **vomiting and diarrhea**

Fever
100F+



Muscle
aches

Chills

Extreme
fatigue

THE CENTERS FOR DISEASE CONTROL AND PREVENTION (CDC) RECOMMENDS "TAKE 3" ACTIONS TO FIGHT THE FLU

1 Take time to get a flu vaccine

2 Take everyday preventive actions to stop the spread of germs

3 Take prescription flu medicines if your doctor prescribes them

THE FLU VACCINE IS THE FIRST AND MOST IMPORTANT STEP IN PREVENTING INFLUENZA



CHILDREN CAN REMAIN CONTAGIOUS LONGER THAN **ADULTS** (MORE THAN SEVEN DAYS)

FLU VIRUSES ARE SPREAD MAINLY BY **RESPIRATORY DROPLETS** FROM COUGHING, TALKING AND SNEEZING



SEE A DOCTOR QUICKLY.

Prescription flu treatment should begin within

2 DAYS

(48 hours) of flu symptom onset



Caregivers miss **11 HOURS OF WORK** seeking medical care for a child that is sick with the flu



Some flu viruses can live for

2-8

hours on hard surfaces such as books or doorknobs