• Influenza activity generally begins to increase in October and peaks between December and March. Long flu seasons can last through May.

• More than 116 million doses of the influenza vaccine have been shipped to health care providers for the 2016-2017 flu season.

• Nationally, approximately 46 percent of individuals ages six months and older receive a flu vaccine. The Missouri rate of vaccination during the 2015-2016 season was 47.4 percent.

• Individuals with insurance can receive a vaccination without a co-pay if they seek the flu vaccine at a network provider.

• In 2016-2017, the live attenuated influenza vaccine delivered through nasal spray is not recommended because there are questions about its effectiveness.

• Among health care providers, hospitals have the highest vaccination rate among work settings. In Missouri, 99 percent of hospitals have a vaccination policy that covers all hospital personnel.

• More than 85 percent of hospitals have a mandatory vaccination policy or a mandatory policy with exemptions.

Sources: Centers for Disease Control and Prevention; U.S. Department of Health & Human Services; Missouri Hospital Association