Mayo Clinic Minute

Why you need your flu shot now

Video

Vivien Williams
VO: People sneezing, suffering

Seasonal flu is a virus that attacks your respiratory system. Most people get better on their own, but, for some, the flu can be serious.

Tina Ardon, M.D. (42:36)
Family Medicine
Mayo Clinic

“Our younger children and our older adults definitely can get more sick from the flu. Patients who are already sick with other chronic conditions, are undergoing chemotherapy are more likely to have complications.”

Vivien Williams
Graphics
• Bronchitis
• Pneumonia
• Heart problems

Complications include bronchitis, pneumonia and even heart problems.

Tina Ardon, M.D. (43:39)
Family Medicine
Mayo Clinic

“The vaccine for influenza is one of the best defenses we have.”

Vivien Williams
VO: From Dr. Ardon to flu shot

Dr. Tina Ardon says some people don’t get the flu vaccine because they think it could cause the flu.

Tina Ardon, M.D. (43:46)

“The flu vaccine is what we call a dead vaccine.”

Vivien Williams
VO: Flu shot and mist

You can’t get the flu from a flu shot. FluMist, while safe for most people, contains a weakened form of the virus, so people with certain conditions should get a shot instead.

Tina Ardon, M.D. (45:44)

“Everyone who can get it should get it.”

Vivien Williams

It takes two weeks for the vaccine to work, so get your flu shot now.

For the Mayo Clinic News Network, I’m Vivien Williams.