

Flu vaccine in nursing homes

Illustration: Aida Amer/Axios

About 3 in 5 nursing home residents (61.3%) received an influenza vaccine during the 2024-2025 flu season, the CDC [reported](#) in its first such nationwide assessment.

- But only about 2 in 5 health care workers in nursing homes (42.1%) were vaccinated, researchers wrote in the Morbidity and Mortality Weekly Report.

Why it matters: Approximately 8% of the U.S. population becomes ill with influenza each year, and people who live and work in congregate settings are at increased risk. Residents also face potential complications from severe cases of the flu.

- CMS began requiring nursing homes to report vaccination coverage among residents starting last year.

By the numbers: Among 13,299 facilities that reported, about 735,000 residents were vaccinated against influenza in 2024-2025.

- Vaccine coverage was highest among government-owned nursing homes (71.7%) and lowest among for-profit nursing homes (58.5%).
- North Dakota, South Dakota, the District of Columbia, Vermont and New Hampshire had coverage of 75% or higher.

The CDC said coverage among health care workers was lower than during the 2023–24 influenza season and noted workers' concerns about potential side effects, vaccine effectiveness, and the need for vaccination.