



Connecting Kids to Coverage National Campaign

“SEASONAL FLU” TEMPLATE NEWSLETTER ARTICLE FOR PARENTS AND CAREGIVERS

Community newspapers, school newsletters, church bulletins, local community organizations, websites and blogs are frequently in need of content. These articles can be used as-is or an organization can insert their local information to customize and use within your own communications channels.

***Insert your state’s income limit for a family of four at 200% of the Federal Poverty Level (FPL). To find the annual FPL figure, visit [ASPE Poverty Guidelines](#). To find the specific FPL guidelines for your state, click [here](#) or contact your state’s Medicaid or CHIP program for information. Note: The income level figure will change from year to year based on the annual release of FPL guidelines.**

Approximately 250 Words

Fight the Flu with Medicaid and CHIP

The flu vaccine is the best way for families to protect their kids from getting the flu and other potentially serious health problems. According to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, flu activity lasts for several months. And while some people may still get sick with the flu, studies have shown the flu vaccine reduces the severity of the illness in people who got vaccinated.

The flu is more dangerous than the common cold. In fact, young children are at a higher risk for developing serious complications from the flu. Each year, [an estimated 7,000 to 26,000 children](#) younger than 5 years old are hospitalized for flu complications. During the [2019-2020 flu season](#), 84.9% of children under 5 who tested positive for the flu were hospitalized, and 21.6% of children aged 5-17 who tested positive were hospitalized. While flu seasons vary in severity, even a mild season puts children at risk.

It is as important as ever to make sure children and families are protected against preventable diseases like the flu. Families without health insurance may be eligible for free or low-cost health insurance available through Medicaid or the Children’s Health Insurance Program (CHIP). Vital benefits of these programs include the influenza (flu) vaccine and other age-appropriate routine immunizations.

Enrollment in Medicaid and CHIP is open year-round; coverage must be renewed annually. Visit the “[Find Coverage for Your Family](#)” map on [InsureKidsNow.gov](#) to access information in your state or call 1-877-KIDS-NOW (1-877-543-7669).

Approximately 125 Words

Fight the Flu with Medicaid and CHIP

It is as important as ever to make sure families are protected against preventable diseases like the flu. And while some people who get the flu vaccine may still get sick with the flu, studies have shown that getting the shot reduces the severity of the illness.

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