



# PROJECT FIRSTLINE JOURNAL CLUB

Project Firstline's curated journal club series draws on published, open access research examining important infection control topics for the healthcare workforce. Use the discussion questions below or create your own. Please check [CDC.gov](https://www.cdc.gov) for the latest data and recommendations on infection control topics affecting the healthcare workforce.



## Article:

[Influenza Vaccination Coverage Among Health-Care Personnel — United States, 2012–13 Influenza Season](#)

CDC recommends that all healthcare workers (HCWs) get the annual flu vaccine to protect themselves and their patients. A CDC survey from 2013 showed that flu vaccination coverage was highest among hospital-based HCWs (83.1%) and lowest among long-term care facility (LTCF) HCWs (58.9%). Increasing vaccination coverage of HCWs in LTCFs is important because the vaccine's effectiveness is generally lower in older populations, and vaccination of close contacts, such as HCWs, reduces risk for spread.



## Discussion:

### Understanding and analyzing the article:

- What is the purpose of this article? If provided, identify the main research questions and hypotheses.
- Who are the authors and what are their affiliations (who they work for or who funded the research) and credentials (degrees or professional experience)?
- Do any of the authors have affiliations that could influence the outcome of the study due to a conflict of interest?
- When was the article published, and is the information still timely and relevant to the topic? Why or why not?
- What background information is important to understanding this topic?
- What study design or research methods were used?
- What were the main findings of the paper and how do the authors support their interpretation of the findings?
- What are the strengths and limitations of this article?
- What main conclusions and calls to action are presented?

### Continue the discussion:

- Organized efforts by healthcare facilities are necessary to ensure high HCW vaccination coverage each flu season. How could a flu vaccination campaign be designed to increase vaccination rates among HCWs in LTCFs?
- Read [Influenza and Up-to-Date COVID-19 Vaccination Coverage Among Health Care Personnel — National Healthcare Safety Network \(NHSN\), United States, 2022–23 Influenza Season](#)