



Houston Department of
Health and Human Services

Who is prioritized for treatment with influenza antiviral drugs?

Most people ill with influenza will recover without complications.

Some people are at highest risk of influenza-related complications and are prioritized for treatment with influenza antiviral drugs this season. They include:

- People with more severe illness, such as those hospitalized with suspected or confirmed influenza
- People with suspected or confirmed influenza who are at higher risk for complications
- Children younger than 2 years old
- Adults 65 years and older
- Pregnant women
- People with certain chronic medical or immunosuppressive conditions
- People younger than 19 years of age who are receiving long-term aspirin therapy

Children 2 years to 4 years old are more likely to require hospitalization or urgent medical evaluation for influenza compared with older children, although the risk is much lower than for children younger than 2 years old. Children aged 2 years to 4 years without high risk conditions and who are not severely ill do not necessarily require antiviral treatment.

Children and adults presenting with suspected influenza who have symptoms of lower respiratory tract illness or clinical deterioration should also receive prompt empiric antiviral therapy, regardless of previous health or age.

Physicians may also decide not to treat some people in these groups and/or treat people who are not in these groups based on their clinical judgment.

More information is available at: www.cdc.gov/h1n1flu/antiviral.htm