



American College of Cardiology Urges Members to Help Fight Influenza

As a member of the *Childhood Influenza Immunization Coalition (CIIC)*, the American College of Cardiology (ACC) is calling on you to help increase awareness about influenza and the importance of vaccination by making the *Coalition's* multimedia resources available to your constituents.

Influenza claims more American lives every year than all other vaccine-preventable diseases combined. Children are particularly vulnerable to infection, and some may even die as a result of influenza. Each year, influenza causes about 20,000 hospitalizations and nearly 100 deaths in children younger than 5 years of age, yet vaccination rates remain low.

Many individuals – parents and health care professionals alike – don't realize that it is beneficial to vaccinate against influenza well into the New Year. Influenza outbreaks typically peak in February and continue until around May. It is clear that vaccine given this January and beyond is of great benefit.

ACC asks that you take a few minutes to link to the *Coalition* Web site resources on your chapter site. Directions on how to link to the *Coalition* Web site are available online at <http://www.preventchildhoodinfluenza.org/add/>. Resources include:

- **Videos** tailored to [families/caregivers](#) and [health care providers](#), featuring expert *Coalition* members answering frequently asked questions on influenza and vaccination
- **Informational materials**, like posters and brochures, geared toward [families/caregivers](#) and [health care providers](#)
- A **Spanish Web site** (<http://prevengalagripeinfantil.org/>), hosting various educational materials
- **Multilingual materials** available in Spanish, Chinese, Japanese, Korean, Tagalog and Vietnamese

Act now to protect children throughout the influenza season.

Coalition representatives can be contacted with any questions (E-mail: CIIC@NFID.org; Ph: 212-886-2277).

The Childhood Influenza Immunization Coalition (CIIC) was established by the National Foundation for Infectious Diseases (NFID) to protect infants, children and adolescents from influenza by communicating with "one strong voice" the need to make influenza immunization a national health priority. Members represent 30 of the nation's leading public health, medical, patient and parent groups committed to protecting children's health and encouraging wellness. The *Childhood Influenza Immunization Coalition* initiatives are made possible through an unrestricted educational grant to NFID from sanofi pasteur.