



FAITHFULLY PREVENT THE FLU

Our strong and large partnership network has a unique communication capacity with trusted messengers with translated, accessible, whole person health information.

Following is an example of one of our flu prevention messages that is framed by the commitments and theological perspective of the faith tradition. We created it in concert with one of our partners, the Council of Islamic Organizations of Greater Chicago, and it was distributed through their e-newsletter that has a reach of over 9000 readers.



Faithfully Prevent the Flu

Purity and cleanliness is central to Islam. During each flu season, the vulnerabilities to great suffering, including potential hospitalization and death, remind us that our spiritual journeys demand attention to the messy world around us. Vast disparities in health condition and access to health care resources result in vulnerable populations' disproportionate suffering. Flu can have a major impact on the overall health and functioning of a community, especially for those who are vulnerable -- children, frail elderly, those with limited English, those who are economically challenged, refugees, the undocumented, etc. A history of the toll influenza has taken upon millions of people can be found at www.flu.gov and www.facesofinfluenza.com.

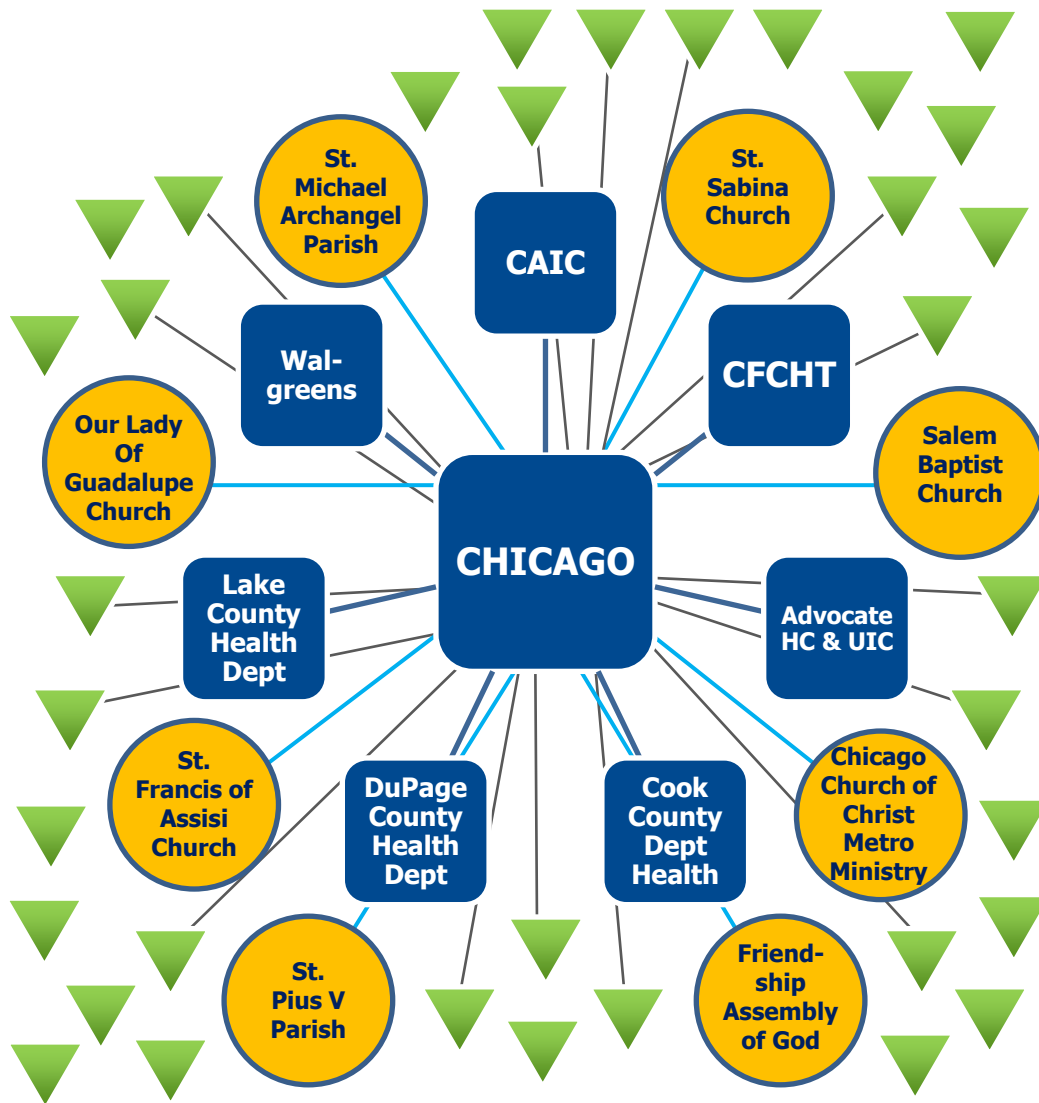
All faith traditions call upon us to be faithful in serving the needs of the most vulnerable. Each also teaches personal responsibility to adherents, an ethic of stewardship so that our health might serve the positive purpose of our lives and also protect our loved ones from harm.

In sum, it is a sacred duty to strive for healthy lives in general and a loving and literate protection against potentially tragic illness such as the flu during this season. Learn more about faith-based flu prevention in this resource packet or on-line at www.chicagofaithandhealth.org.

TOP 5 FLU PREVENTION TIPS:

- Get an annual vaccination.
- Know where your members and neighbors can find affordable vaccine and help them do so. Pay special attention to the protection of the most vulnerable.
- Make vaccination easier by obtaining vouchers for a local pharmacy or hosting a flu clinic.
- Teach and model healthy lifestyles of nutrition, stress management and hygiene.
- Make sure the highest of hygiene standards are met in your place of worship, and necessary supplies are easy to locate in all portions of your building.

To explore acquiring vaccine vouchers or hosting a flu clinic event in Chicago, contact the Chicago Department of Public Health at 312-746-6129 or visit www.chicagohan.org/home. For suburban Cook County, DuPage County or Lake County inquiries, contact Melissa Ponce at the Chicago Area Immunization Campaign at mponce@ilmaternal.org or 312-491-8161 ext. 33.



VACCINATION REACH

- 8 vaccination events
- 1,836 persons vaccinated
 - Hispanic 69%
 - African American 29%
 - Caucasian 2%
 - Pacific Islander <1%
 - Other <1%

COMMUNITY PARTNERS

- 7 Core Partners
- 8 Vaccination Site partners
 - All Faith-Based
- ▲ 39 Educational Outreach partners engaging 1,694 congregations and 700 organizations with an even wider reach