



## Memorandum

TO: All Caregiver Recruitment and Retention Unit Employees  
Child Placing Agency Resource Development Employees

FROM: Dr. Shaun Johnson, Caregiver Coordination Section Director *Shaun E. Johnson*  
DaJari Patterson, CRRU Director *DaJari Patterson*

RE: Influenza Vaccination During Non-Flu Season

DATE: July 2, 2021

According to the Georgia Department of Public Health (DPH), the flu season begins in early October and can last as late in the year as May.<sup>1</sup> The Center for Disease Control (CDC) recommends that the flu vaccine should be administered by the end of October, but vaccinations should continue to be offered if influenza viruses are circulating locally, and unexpired vaccine is available<sup>2</sup>. To that end, the availability of the annual influenza vaccine may be significantly diminished or non-existent between June and late September.

Georgia DFCS policy 14.01 requires “*all household members who will be caregivers of infants and children with special medical needs must have an up-to-date annual influenza vaccination, unless the immunization is contrary to the individual’s health as documented by a licensed health care professional.*” As such, caregivers approved and/or re-evaluated between June and September may not have the opportunity to receive the flu vaccine. If the family is approved to care for a child between the age of 0 and 24 months and children with special medical needs, is unable to obtain the flu vaccine, a waiver must be completed and approved. It is the expectation of the Department, that once vaccines are available, caregivers must obtain the shot within 30 days.

DFCS staff must submit the waiver to the DFCS waiver box ([DFCS-Waivers@dhs.ga.gov](mailto:DFCS-Waivers@dhs.ga.gov)). CPA staff must submit the waiver to the OPM Leadership box ([OPM.leadership@dhs.ga.gov](mailto:OPM.leadership@dhs.ga.gov)). The waiver must indicate the date of the last influenza

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<sup>1</sup> <https://dph.georgia.gov/current-campaigns/seasonal-flu-influenza>

<sup>2</sup> <https://www.cdc.gov/flu/prevent/vaccinations.htm>

shot and the family's continued willingness to obtain the vaccination. Once approval is obtained, the waiver must be uploaded into SHINES and GA Score.