



# Rhode Island Issue Brief

## Healthcare Workers and Flu Vaccination: Getting Rhode Island Back on Track

**Before the COVID-19 pandemic, Rhode Island was close to its goal of 92% of healthcare workers getting vaccinated against the flu.**

In the 2022-2023 flu season, the state’s rate was 76.6%. We can get back on track.

### Background

Healthcare facilities have an important role in reducing the spread of flu among coworkers and patients. RIDOH can work with you to reduce the number of healthcare workers who refuse the flu vaccine and the number of healthcare facilities that don’t know the vaccination status of all their workers.

Some types of healthcare facilities do better on flu vaccination rates than others (Figure 1). Hospice providers almost met the state goal of 92% coverage in 2022-2023, with fewer than 7% of workers refusing the flu vaccine. (You can see detailed data [here](#).)

### Addressing the problems

Vaccine refusal might be “soft” (for instance, a healthcare worker just didn’t find the time to go get vaccinated) or “hard” (a healthcare worker is actively opposed to getting vaccinated). But neither category is beyond reach. Use the recommendations in the side bar above as a start-ing point.

RIDOH can also help administrators who reported workers as “unknown or unaccounted for.”

### Recommendations and Resources for Healthcare Facilities

- Celebrate and support staff who receive the vaccine.
- Develop peer level ambassadors to advocate for vaccination.
- Hold a contest and offer an incentive to employees who receive their flu vaccine.

Additional resources:

<https://health.ri.gov/flu/for/healthcarefacilitymanagers/>

<https://www.hhs.gov/sites/default/files/oidp-2022-flu-vaccine-toolkit-for-small-businesses.pdf>

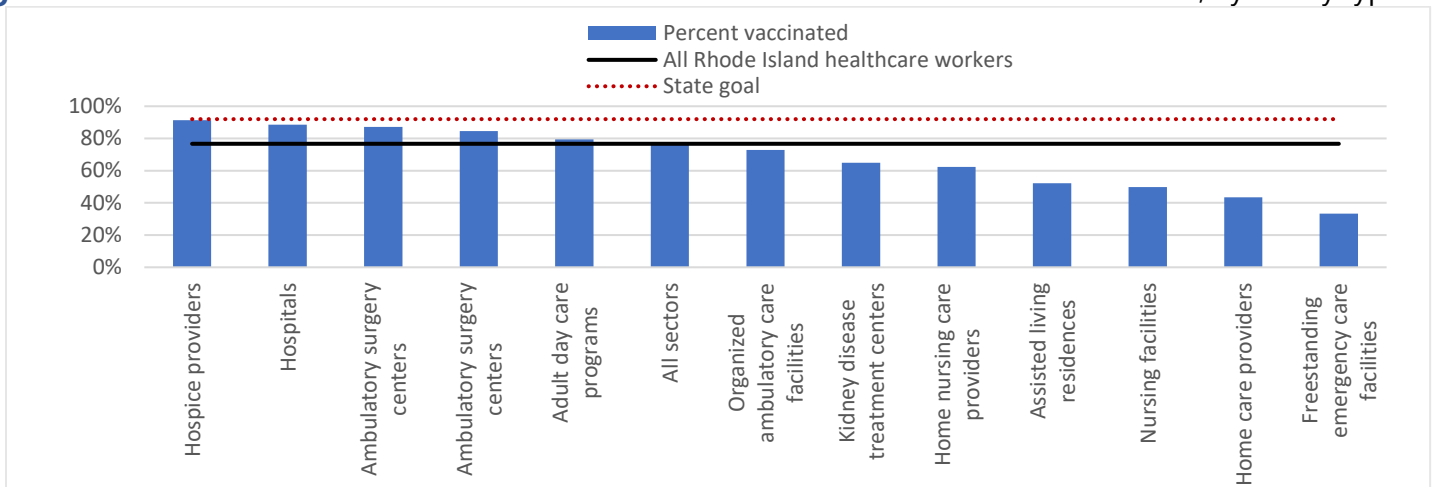
<https://www.ahcancal.org/Quality/Pages/GetVaccinated.aspx>

<https://movingneedles.org/resources-to-help-improve-staff-immunization-rates/>

<https://www.cdc.gov/infectioncontrol/guidelines/viral/prevent-viral.html>



**Figure 1** Percent of Rhode Island healthcare workers who received the flu vaccine in 2022-2023, by facility type.



Data source: Rhode Island Healthcare Worker Influenza Vaccination Report