



March 26, 2013

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Re: Doctor stirs debate over mandatory flu shots, March 25, 2013

We cannot hold up progress on this important matter of public health and safety while we wait for a foolproof flu shot.

The Canadian Nurses Association encourages all nurses to be immunized to protect themselves, their families and their patients. The vaccine may only be 60 per cent effective, but it's the most effective method of preventing the flu. Cough etiquette and handwashing are important, but they alone do not offer the same level of protection as immunizations.

It's clear many health-care providers feel strongly about the issue — and that's why it's important to keep the discussion going and keep our focus on the core issue. Influenza is a serious public health issue. What's at stake is the health of Canadians, especially those who are most vulnerable, like children and seniors. Nurses' central role is to protect and promote our patients' health in all that we do.

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