

SEASONAL INFLUENZA PREVENTION IN OLDER ADULTS

ADDRESSING THE CHALLENGES

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SAMPLE CONTENT SLIDE

- **What is influenza?**
 - Influenza, often called the flu, is an infection of the upper airway caused by the influenza virus.
 - Getting sick with influenza also puts you at risk of other infections. These include viral or bacterial pneumonia which affect the lungs. Complications from influenza can be life-threatening. Seniors 65 years and older, very young children, and people who have lung or heart diseases, certain chronic health conditions, or weakened immune systems are at greater risk of complications from influenza.

SAMPLE SLIDE

- **How does influenza spread?**
- Influenza spreads easily from person to person through coughing, sneezing or face-to-face contact.
- **How can you prevent influenza?**
- You can reduce the risk of getting influenza or spreading it to others by:
 - Washing your hands regularly
 - Promptly disposing of used tissues in the waste basket or garbage

THE UNMET NEED

SPEAKER NAME

SAMPLE TABLE

MODERATOR QUESTION 2

“What do we know about the effectiveness of standard influenza vaccines in older adults?”

CASE STUDY: MEET JANE DOE



- 72 years of age
- Good overall health except for mild hypertension
- Recently married her third husband and likes to travel
- Has five grandchildren, ages 5, 7, 11, 14, and 17
- Jane is looking forward to flying to Virginia, USA to spend the coming holiday season visiting her two youngest grandchildren.
- A quick review of Jane's vaccination status shows she is due for seasonal influenza vaccination.

THE CURRENT NEED

- 1. Immune response:** Influenza vaccines are less effective in older adults due to immunosenescence
- 2. Breadth of protection:** Influenza vaccines are even less effective in older adults during seasons when drift and strain mismatch occur
- 3. Persistence:** Influenza vaccine effectiveness wanes significantly during the season
- 4. Disease burden:** High disease burden associated with influenza infection in older adults