

EPIDEMIOLOGICAL BULLETIN

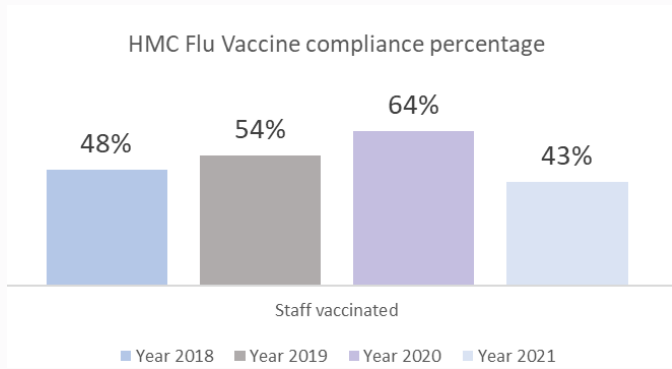
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2021 HMC staff Influenza Vaccination Campaign

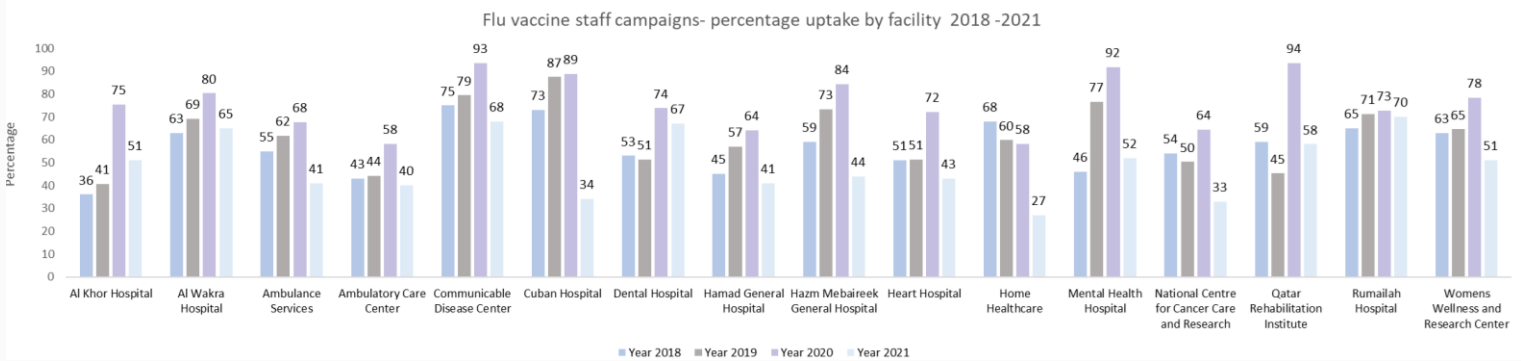


The staff Influenza vaccination campaign launched in HMC, ran from September 2021 up to the end of January 2022.

The theme of the influenza vaccine campaign this year was FIGHT THE FLU.

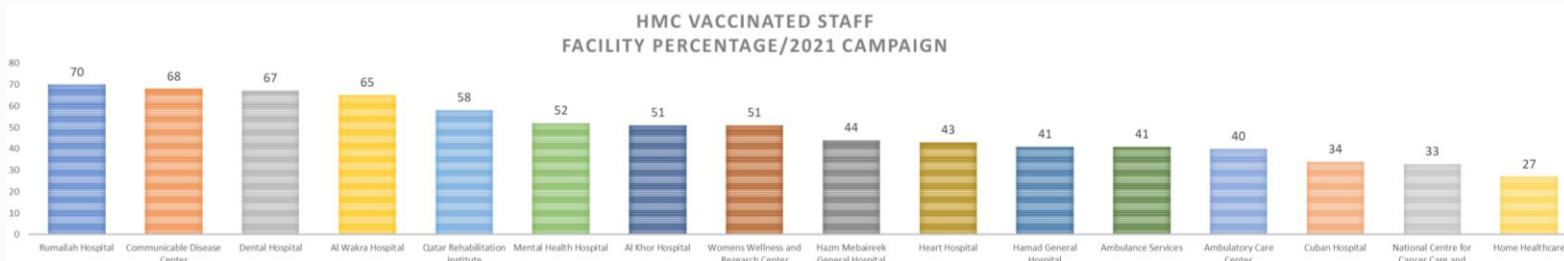
The goal of the Flu vaccine Campaign is to increase uptake of flu vaccination among health-care workers, to minimize the risk of sickness and death, and to reduce the impacts of flu on health-care systems and economies.

This year HMC flu vaccination staff compliance decreased to 43% across all facilities, the lowest compliance rate since 2018. Apparently, the COVID-19 had an impact on the flu shot decision. The flu vaccine hesitancy was probably attributed to the fear of having an increase in adverse effects while getting both COVID-19 vaccine and the flu shot at the same time or to the fact that healthcare workers became unconcerned about the seasonal flu and assumed that the current main threat to their health is COVID-19.



Compared to 2020 campaign, 2021 had lower rates of reported vaccine uptake. This was noticed among all HMC facilities, without exception.

Please note that this year, staff included in the Cuban hospital statistics are the ones under HMC HR contract.

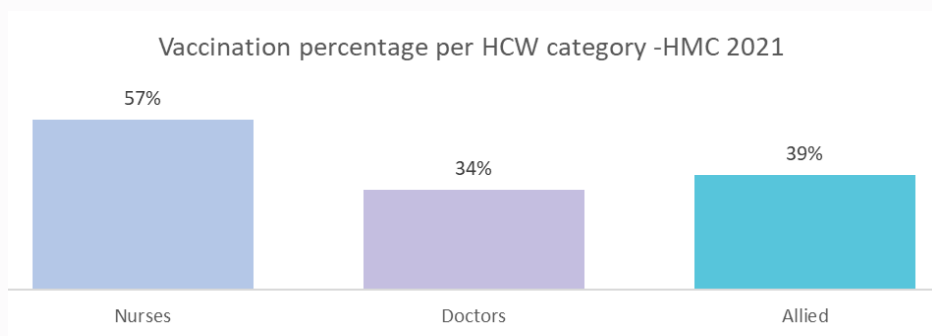


The vaccine uptake in the facilities ranged from 27 to 70%, with staff from Rumailah Hospital having the highest rates of vaccine uptake followed by the Communicable Disease Center (68%) and Dental Hospital (67%).

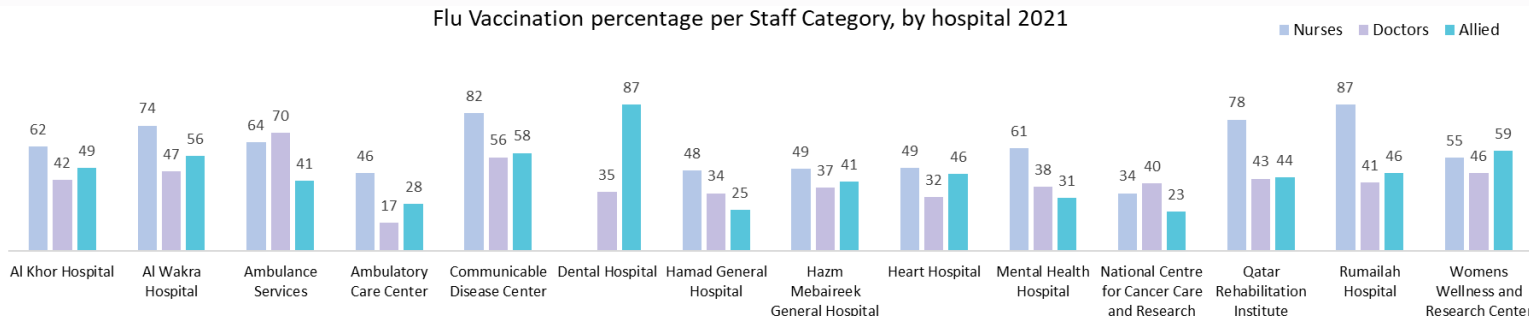
As usual, nurses reported the highest level of uptake (57%) followed by allied HCWs (39%) and doctors (34%).

Doctors and allied were more vaccine-hesitant and this can be noticed in the below graph with the very low proportion of vaccinated against influenza, despite published guidelines and recommendations.

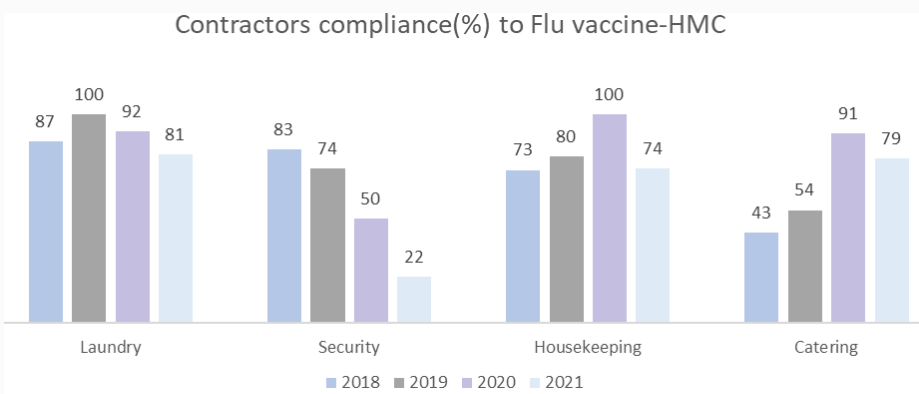
Vaccination rates remained very low, particularly in their category across most of HMC facilities.



Flu Vaccination percentage per Staff Category, by hospital 2021



Contractors compliance(%) to Flu vaccine-HMC



Among the contractors, Laundry staff led the way with 81% of their staff vaccinated followed by housekeeping staff (74%), catering staff (79%) and security staff (22%)

Notes from HMC leadership:

- With COVID-19 still a threat to our health, it's very important that people take every possible step to protect themselves, their families and friends from the flu.
- Influenza and COVID-19 are both contagious respiratory illnesses, and lead to similar symptoms, but they are caused by different viruses.
- It is important for people to understand that the flu vaccine does not protect you from COVID-19 and the COVID-19 vaccine does not protect you from flu. For this reason, we strongly urge people to receive both vaccines.
- People can receive the flu and COVID-19 vaccines at the same time, or within a short period of time before or after each other. Clinical studies have shown that this is safe, and does not affect the efficacy of either vaccine
- It is important that people do not become complacent about the seasonal flu and believe that it is only COVID-19 that is a threat to their health.
- Maximum protection against the flu takes up to two weeks to develop so the sooner people get vaccinated, the sooner they will be protected.