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For additional flu information visit: www.michigan.gov/flu

Latest Flu News

INFLUENZA ASSOCIATED PEDIATRIC MORTALITY

One pediatric mortality in a 2.5 month-old from Michigan's Southwest Surveillance Region, was reported during the past week. Influenza A was associated with this case; an investigation is ongoing. This is the first pediatric mortality reported to MDCH for the 2008-2009 influenza season. Since September 28, 2008, CDC has received 17 reports of influenza-associated pediatric deaths that occurred during the current season, with eight influenza-associated pediatric deaths reported in the most recent week. These deaths are a somber reminder of the importance of protecting children from the flu, especially those at high risk from serious flu-related complications. It also serves as a reminder that vaccination efforts should continue to occur. For more information and CDC talking points on this sensitive issue click [here](#).

NEW STUDY: LIVE ATTENUATED VS INACTIVATED INFLUENZA VACCINE IN ADULTS

Researchers led by Dr. Zhong Wang of the Armed Forces Health Surveillance Center examined the medical records of over 1 million soldiers over three flu seasons and determined that intramuscular flu shots are more effective in adults than the intranasal vaccine, lowering doctor visits by 53 percent versus 21 percent. The work, published by the *Journal of the American Medical Association*, adds to what experts believe is a growing body of evidence that live vaccine works best in children and adolescents whose immune systems haven't yet built up flu defenses through years of exposures to influenza viruses or vaccines. Click [here](#) to access the complete article.



Antiviral Resistance News

GLOBAL TRANSMISSION OF OSELTAMIVIR-RESISTANT INFLUENZA

In the latest edition of the *New England Journal of Medicine*, Dr. Anne Moscona, a professor at Cornell University, wrote a perspective article on oseltamivir-resistant influenza. In the article she states, "Seemingly from one influenza season to the next, we have lost the use of our leading antiviral influenza drug because of resistance. This winter, the circulating strain of seasonal influenza A virus (H1N1) is resistant to the neuraminidase inhibitor oseltamivir. Moreover, rather than emerging under selective pressure of drug use, as many antibiotic-resistant bacteria do and as has been the concern for influenza, this resistant strain seems to be a natural, spontaneously arising variant." To read the entire commentary, click [here](#).

INFLUENZA ANTIVIRAL DRUGS: USE THEM, THEN LOSE THEM

The following excerpt is from a commentary by Dr. David W. Kimberlin, published in the March 2009 edition of *Infectious Diseases in Children*.

"By the time you read this editorial, the United States will have experienced a biologic attack that likely will have killed at least 36,000 of our fellow countrymen and women. The general public probably will not have heard much, if anything, about it. The biologic agent is influenza and the havoc that it wreaks each year is both predictable and unforgivable - predictable because of the thousands of Americans it kills annually and unforgivable because it can be prevented. As is typical of the American health care system, management of influenza relies too much on support and treatment once someone is sick with the illness and too little on preventing the illness in the first place. The fallacy of the former approach is readily seen in the emergence of antiviral resistance that has been occurring over the past three years."

The full article can be accessed by clicking [here](#).

Antiviral Resistance News Cont.

MORBIDITY AND MORTALITY ASSOCIATED WITH NOSOCOMIAL TRANSMISSION OF OSELTAMIVIR-RESISTANT INFLUENZA A (H1N1) VIRUS

A new study published in the early release of the *Journal of the American Medical Association* investigates nosocomial viral transmission in a cluster of patients with influenza A(H1N1) virus infection. The study highlights a descriptive outbreak investigation of 2 hematopoietic stem cell transplant recipients and an elderly patient who developed hospital-acquired influenza A virus infection following exposure to an index patient with community-acquired H274Y-mutated influenza A(H1N1) virus infection in a medical ward at a Dutch university hospital in February 2008. For more information, a link to the full article is provided [here](#).

Pandemic Influenza News

INCREASED RESEARCH IN FLU TRANSMISSION NEEDED TO PREPARE FOR PANDEMIC FLU OUTBREAK

A recent study published in the March-April 2009 edition of *Public Health Reports* highlighted the need for a better understanding of transmission dynamics in influenza pandemic planning. Researchers at Rhode Island Hospital completed a study to better understand the impact of infection control measures during a possible flu pandemic. Their study focused on the likelihood of the transmission of flu from individuals showing no symptoms (asymptomatic) or from individuals who are infected but have not yet exhibited symptoms. Click [here](#) for a link to the full article.

Flu Surveillance Update

Flu activity throughout Michigan is declining but remains at a high level. The flu activity level remained at "regional" for the week ending February 28, 2009. MDCH labs confirmed 19 influenza cases, bringing the season total to 176: 52 influenza Bs and 124 influenza As (109 A/H1N1s). Flu activity is still elevated across the nation with 44 states reporting widespread or regional activity.

For additional surveillance information, the MI Flu Focus is archived on www.michigan.gov/flu and the most current edition is included in this email. To find out about influenza activity in the U.S., visit <http://www.cdc.gov/flu/weekly/fluactivity.htm>

Flu Resources

Access the following links for up-to-date resources:

Michigan's influenza web page: www.michigan.gov/flu

- Seasonal, Pandemic and Avian influenza
- Flu Advisory Board
- Information for Healthcare professionals, community vaccinators, clinical laboratories, families, and businesses

Flu Fighter Action Kit for Health Care Personnel
www.michigan.gov/flu/flufighterkit

CDC influenza web page: www.cdc.gov/flu

MDCH would like to extend an invite for any interested health care professional to become involved in the Flu Advisory Board (FAB). To join FAB, contact Liz Harton, CDC Public Health Advisor at hartone@michigan.gov.

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