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INFLUENZA JOURNAL ARTICLES

The following abstract was published ahead of print in the *Pediatric Infectious Disease Journal*: "[Timing of the Availability and Administration of Influenza Vaccine Through the Vaccines for Children Program](#)." The authors concluded that: "The VFC program is critical to ensuring financially vulnerable children have access to vaccination.

Manufacturers, distributors, and public health officials should deliver VFC influenza vaccine to providers as quickly as possible. Pediatric healthcare providers should increase efforts to vaccinate all populations, especially the VFC population, in later months."

A study [published in Pediatrics](#) found that Medicaid reimbursement rates for influenza vaccinations seem to be strongly associated with influenza vaccination rates among poor children. The researchers concluded that "an increase in Medicaid reimbursement rates is one policy option to improve influenza vaccine coverage levels for this nation's poor children."

A study exploring a new concept for making the influenza vaccine was published in the *Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences (PNAS)*; "[Vaccination with a synthetic peptide from the influenza virus hemagglutinin provides protection against distinct viral subtypes](#)."

FLU SURVEILLANCE UPDATES

In [yesterday's publication](#) of *Eurosurveillance* researchers reported that several genetically distinct changes in the pandemic H1N1 influenza virus have occurred. These variants were first detected in Singapore in early 2010 and have subsequently spread through Australia and New Zealand. At this stage, these signature changes in the proteins have not resulted in significant antigenic changes which might make the current vaccine less effective, but such adaptive mutations should be carefully monitored as the northern hemisphere approaches its winter influenza season. According to a related Center for Infectious Disease and Research [CIDRAP article](#), Nancy Cox, MD, director of the Influenza Division at CDC, told CIDRAP News that the data in the study are not new to the CDC. She said they came out of WHO collaborating centers and were reviewed over the summer and at the end of September when WHO experts made their recommendations for the Southern Hemisphere's 2011 flu season.

ADDITIONAL SURVEILLANCE NEWS ARTICLES

[CDC: Flu activity low, with all three types in the mix](#)

FLU UPDATES - IN THE NEWS

[Study finds hope for new drugs that fight flu](#)

[Influenza Vaccine Preference, Uptake in Older People Reviewed](#)

CIDRAP Influenza Articles:

[Flu vaccines called generally safe for egg-allergic patients](#)

[Flu + pneumococcal vaccines in elderly: compound benefits?](#)

[IDSA studies report on range of flu issues](#)

FLU RESOURCES

VOTE AND VAX

It's that time of year again to make a difference in your community by organizing a Vote & Vax event. Vote & Vax is a national project of The Robert Wood Johnson Foundation in collaboration with SPARC (Sickness Prevention Achieved through Regional Collaboration) which provides a quick and simple way to make a big difference in communities by partners organizing a vaccination clinic at a local polling place on Election day. To find out how you can participate visit: www.voteandvax.org

Currently flu materials are being updated for the 2010-11 influenza season. Stay up-to-date with:

MDCH: www.michigan.gov/flu

CDC: www.cdc.gov/flu

HHS: www.flu.gov

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