



Michigan Department of Community Health, 201 Townsend Street, Lansing, MI 48913

INFLUENZA VACCINE FOR THE FUTURE

In [a review in the New England Journal of Medicine](#) of new influenza vaccine technologies, researchers predict that the next decade will bring advances that "will substantially decrease vaccine production time, provide enhanced protection and end mismatches between vaccine strains and circulating viruses." The article discusses moving from egg-based to cell-based production and adding adjuvants. They also discuss recombinant proteins, virus-like particles, viral vectors, DNA-based vaccines, and research on "universal" vaccines. A vaccine that provides lifelong protection against flu may not be achievable, but the goal of a vaccine that would be given every few years instead of annually and would protect against genetically drifting strains and emerging pandemic strains deems more research.

ADULT INFLUENZA COVERAGE - NHIS

Adult immunization coverage levels from the 2009 National Health Interview Survey (NHIS) were shared earlier this week; some adult vaccination rates have increased but [experts noted](#) there is still room for improvement. Estimated 2008-09 season influenza [vaccination coverage](#) was 33.4% for adults age 19-49 years at high risk for influenza-related complications, 40.1% for adults age 50-64 years, and 65.6% for adults age 65 years and older. Vaccination coverage for persons at high risk for influenza-related complications was higher than for persons in the same age group without high risk conditions (19-49 years: 33.4% vs. 19.7%; 50-64 years: 51.5% vs. 34.2%). Rates by ethnicity/race for adults age 65 years and older were highest for non-Hispanic white older adults (68.6%), lower for non-Hispanic black older adults (50.8%), and slightly lower for Hispanics older adults (50.6%). The largest gains in influenza vaccination coverage from the 2007-08 to 2008-09 seasons were seen among health care personnel (HCP) with an increase of 7.1 percent.

ANTIVIRALS

The US Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) has updated its recommendations on [antiviral treatment for influenza for the 2010-11 season](#), keeping them generally in line with the 2009-10 recommendations.

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NEWS ARTICLES

[NIH Awards \\$10 Million for Microneedle Vaccine Patch](#)

[Flu shots safe for pregnant women](#)

[Rice scientists use formula to identify next strain of flu](#)

Massachusetts: [Flu vaccination rates up among hospital workers, but short of goals](#)

[Influenza Vaccines May Vary In Amount Of Allergenic Components](#)

[Study: Novel H1N1 just as sensitive to summer, fall weather](#)

[NIH Scientists Explore 1510 Influenza Pandemic and Lessons Learned](#)

Washtenaw County Health Dept: [CDC conducting influenza surveys](#)

[Citi Launches Flu Care Card to Reduce Employer Healthcare Costs](#)

AVAIN INFLUENZA

On November 17, 2010, Hong Kong confirmed its first human influenza A (H5N1) infection since 2003.

Related News Articles:

- [Confirmation of a case of human influenza A \(H5N1\) infection in Hong Kong](#)
- [Bird flu precautions enhanced](#)

FLU RESOURCES

DECEMBER 5-11 IS NATIONAL INFLUENZA VACCINATION WEEK (NIVW)

If your organization is planning an activity during [NIVW](#), CDC would [like to hear](#) from you. CDC has produced a range of communication materials that drive home the message that flu is a serious disease and vaccination is the best protection against it.

- [Web tools](#)
- [Posters, brochures, flyers](#), and more for a variety of audiences (some in Spanish)
- [Podcasts, videos](#), and more

Stay up-to-date with:

MDCH: www.michigan.gov/flu

CDC: www.cdc.gov/flu

HHS: www.flu.gov

ADDITIONAL IMMUNIZATION NEWS

[FDA Panel Endorses Gardasil for Anal Cancer](#)