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

2010-2011 INFLUENZA SEASON

HEALTH CARE PERSONNEL AND THE FLU VACCINE
Over the last week, three medical organizations: the Infectious Diseases Society of America (IDSA), the Society for Healthcare Epidemiology of America (SHEA) and the American Academy of Pediatrics (AAP) published policy statements on mandatory flu immunization for health care personnel (HCP).

- AAP Policy Statement
- Revised SHEA Position Paper: Influenza Vaccination of Healthcare Personnel
- IDSA Policy

The Immunization Action Coalition (IAC) maintains a national “Honor Roll for Patient Safety” containing over 60 organizations (includes 5 institutions and 2 practices in Michigan) with mandatory policies.

Related News Articles
- Two medical societies back mandatory flu vaccination for health care workers
- Nation’s leading ID experts call for mandatory influenza vaccination for all health-care personnel

INFLUENZA VACCINE UPDATES FOR 2010-2011
Updated CDC guidance for schools:
- Guidance for School Administrators to Help Reduce the Spread of Seasonal Influenza in K-12 Schools during the 2010-2011 School Year (September 7, 2010)
- How To Clean and Disinfect Schools To Help Slow the Spread of Flu (September 7, 2010)

SEASONAL FLU JOURNAL ARTICLES AND ABSTRACTS:
Practice and Child Characteristics Associated With Influenza Vaccine Uptake in Young Children
With this study the authors assessed practice and child characteristics and practice strategies that predicted complete influenza vaccination among children aged 6 to 23 months. It highlights the importance of improving access to influenza vaccine in primary care practices with several strategies.

Finnish researchers reporting in Clinical Infectious Diseases found that oseltamivir (Tamiflu) administered within 24 hours of seasonal influenza symptoms provided “substantial benefits” to children 1 to 3 years old.

FLU UPDATES - IN THE NEWS
- US urges nearly all to get flu shots
- Salmonella Is No Danger to Vaccines
- Suntan Lotion, Flip-Flops… and Flu Shots
- CDC No Longer Recommends Delaying Influenza Vaccination for Elderly
- WHO wants faster, more flu vaccine production
- This season’s flu vaccine packs H1N1 protection, too

INFLUENZA SURVEILLANCE
The MDCH 2008-2009 and 2009-2010 Influenza Season Summaries have been completed and are being distributed with this edition of FluBytes.

2009 H1N1 JOURNAL ARTICLES
This week’s MMWR includes: “Parental Attitudes and Experiences During School Dismissals Related to 2009 Influenza A (H1N1)” The study found that 90% of parents agreed with the dismissal decision and that 85% believed the measure reduced flu transmission. Though about 20% missed work and 19% had a child who missed free or reduced-cost lunch, only 3% reported that the dismissal was a major problem.

Clinical Characteristics and 30-Day Outcomes for Influenza A 2009 (H1N1), 2008-2009 (H1N1), and 2007-2008 (H3N2) Infections
Two H1N1 studies were recently published in Biosecurity and Bioterrorism:
- Expanding Practitioner Scopes of Practice During Public Health Emergencies: Experiences from the 2009 H1N1 Pandemic Vaccination Efforts
- Stigma, Health Disparities, and the 2009 H1N1 Influenza Pandemic: How to Protect Latino Farmworkers in Future Health Emergencies

FLU RESOURCES
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 ; you can also check the “What’s New on this Site” page.
- HHS: www.flu.gov

ADDITIONAL IMMUNIZATION NEWS
Registration is still open for MDCH Fall Conferences. Details are posted on the registration website.

The August issue of Needle Tips has been posted which is published by IAC Express.