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SEASONAL FLU

On October 25, 2011, the *Lancet Infectious Diseases* published a [paper](#) by the University of Minnesota's Center for Infectious Disease Research and Policy (CIDRAP), "Efficacy and Effectiveness of Influenza Vaccines: A Systematic Review and Meta-analysis." Key points resulting from the study include:

- 1) This article concludes and reaffirms the fact that influenza vaccine protects the majority of those who receive it. However, the study highlights the limitations of published studies on efficacy and effectiveness of influenza vaccines.
- 2) The article highlights the need for a new generation of more highly effective and cross-protective vaccines that can be manufactured rapidly.
- 3) Please keep in mind even though these data identify gaps in influenza vaccine efficacy and effectiveness, the single best way to reduce risk of influenza infection and its complications today remains vaccination.

Related News Articles:

- CIDRAP: [Strict meta-analysis raises questions about flu vaccine efficacy](#)
- CIDRAP: [Public health groups say flu vaccine is best tool, despite limitations](#)
- [New Reports on Influenza Vaccine: The Bottom Line for Clinicians](#)
- [Flu Shot: Good but Not Perfect](#)

World Health Organization (WHO) weekly epidemiologic report:

- [Antigenic and genetic characteristics of zoonotic influenza viruses and development of candidate vaccine viruses for pandemic preparedness](#)
- [Standardization of terminology of the pandemic A\(H1N1\) 2009 virus](#)

Jet Injectors

Last week we sent you information from the Food and Drug Administration (FDA) on using jet injectors for administering flu vaccines. On October 26, FDA updated this document: [FDA Updated Communication on Use of Jet Injectors with Inactivated Influenza Vaccines](#)

Related CIDRAP article: [FDA advises providers to stop offering needle-free flu vaccines](#)

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Flu News Articles

- [Sanofi Pasteur Presents Additional Data on Investigational Quadrivalent Influenza Vaccine](#)
- [Sanofi Pasteur Presents New Data Confirming Fluzone® High-Dose \(Influenza Virus Vaccine\) Produces Higher Antibody Response in the Age 65+ Population](#)
- [Low-Dose Intradermal Flu Vaccine Effective as Intramuscular](#)
- [Flu vaccine accepted by pregnant women, not linked to miscarriage](#)
- [IDSA: Flu Season Not Any Worse for HIV Patients](#)

Journal Articles

Australian researchers in *BMC Infectious Diseases* say seasonal influenza epidemics are accompanied by a "substantial and statistically significant" increase in emergency department (ED) visits for febrile seizures in children under 6 years old. The authors studied the relationships between the incidence of febrile convulsions and seasonal flu and respiratory syncytial virus (RSV) epidemics in Sydney, Australia.

On October 25, 2011 the International Journal of Obesity published, "[Obesity is associated with impaired immune response to influenza vaccination in humans.](#)"

Additional Journal Articles:

- [Seasonal influenza vaccine provision in 157 countries \(2004-2009\) and the potential influence of national public health policies](#)
- [Invasive Bacterial Infections in Relation to Influenza Outbreaks, 2006-2010](#)
- [Incidence of Influenza in Healthy Adults and Healthcare Workers: A Systematic Review and Meta-Analysis](#)

FLU RESOURCES

Stay up-to-date with:

MDCH: www.michigan.gov/flu

CDC: www.cdc.gov/flu

HHS: www.flu.gov or www.vaccines.gov

The Immunization Action Coalition (IAC) recently released two new handouts: "[Keep your kids safe--get them vaccinated every fall or winter.](#)" a new handout for parents to encourage them to vaccinate their children age 6 months and older; and they updated: "[First do no harm--protect patients by making sure all staff receive yearly influenza vaccine!](#)"

Additional IAC materials can be found [here](#).