



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

FLU UPDATES

MANDATORY FLU VACCINATION IN HOSPITALS

According to [draft recommendations](#) from the Health Care Personal Influenza Vaccination subcommittee of the National Vaccine Advisory Committee (NVAC), the flu vaccination should be mandated at hospitals and other healthcare facilities with flu vaccination coverage rates under 90%. The NVAC subcommittee is tasked with making recommendations to the Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) on how to achieve 90% coverage for healthcare workers; they will present final recommendations to the full committee in February 2012.

In the most [recent edition](#) of *Clinical Infectious Diseases*, Centers for Disease Control and Prevention researchers found that more than half of US hospitals require employees to receive an annual influenza immunization. The authors defined an institutional requirement as a policy requiring staff to receive or decline flu vaccination, with or without consequences for refusing. They found that, of 808 responding hospitals, 440 (56%) reported an institutional requirement for vaccination. In addition, 44% (194) had consequences for refusal, with 69% of those hospitals offering nonmedical exemptions. Requiring HCP to wear a mask was the most common consequence of vaccine refusal (74% of 194 requirements), and 29 of 194 hospitals (14%) terminated unvaccinated healthcare personnel (HCP). The researchers found four variables associated with mandatory vaccination: location in a state requiring HCP to receive or decline flu vaccine, caring for vulnerable patients, use of nine or more vaccine strategies recommended by the Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices, and for-profit status.

NATIONAL INFLUENZA VACCINATION WEEK (NIVW)

[NIVW](#), a national observance that was established to highlight the importance of continuing influenza vaccination, as well as fostering greater use of flu vaccine after the holiday season into January and beyond is scheduled for **December 4-10, 2011**. If you are planning an event, be sure to [submit it](#) to CDC.

MAINE CONFIRMS 2ND CASE OF HYBRID H3N2 FLU

Maine has confirmed a second case of swine-origin novel H3N2 flu virus with genetic material from the 2009 H1N1 virus, according to the state's Center for Disease Control and Prevention ([Maine CDC](#)). The national total of such cases in recent months is now at six. Maine's first case was confirmed Oct 17, and the most recent one on Oct 31. Both patients had multiple exposures to pigs. The US CDC confirmed the four other cases—three in Pennsylvania and one in Indiana—in September.

NEWS ARTICLES

[Manufacturers react cautiously to flu vaccine efficacy analysis](#)

[Two reports detail 2009 H1N1 coinfections with seasonal strains](#)

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

HHS: www.flu.gov

MDCH RESOURCES ON TDAP AND FLU VACCINATION

On October 31, 2011, the Michigan Department of Community Health (MDCH) distributed a [new letter](#) to partners on [updated recommendations](#) made by the Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices (ACIP) to give Tdap vaccine during pregnancy.

MDCH has created the following immunization educational materials:

- [Pertussis and Pregnancy Posters and Flyers](#)
- [Flu and Pregnancy Posters and Flyers](#)
- [Got Flu Vaccine? Posters](#)

NATIONAL RESOURCES

Materials recently posted on CDC's website:

- [Pregnancy and Influenza Vaccine Safety](#) (October 24, 2011)
- Matte article targeted to parents: "[The flu vaccine—Protection from the flu. Peace of mind for you.](#)" (October 31, 2011)
- Matte article targeted to African Americans: "[Think You're Not at Risk for the Flu? You Might be Dead Wrong.](#)" (October 26, 2011)
- Additional CDC matte articles can be found [here](#).

The Immunization Action Coalition (IAC), recently updated their "[Ask the Experts](#)" Q&A section about influenza vaccine and disease.

The American Nurses Association (ANA) has launched its 2011-12 seasonal influenza campaign, "[Unite to Fight the Flu.](#)"

FluBytes is distributed to MDCH flu partners for informational and communication purposes. Please feel free to distribute widely. Archived editions of FluBytes can be found [here](#). To access archived editions of MI FluFocus click [here](#).