



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

## FLU UPDATES

### FLU VACCINE AND HEALTH CARE PERSONNEL

According to a Dec 19 [Federal Register notice](#), the National Vaccine Advisory Committee (NVAC), a vaccine advisory group to the US Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) has issued draft guidance on increasing flu vaccination in health care personnel and is soliciting public comments. The guidance is aimed at helping the nation achieve 90% flu vaccination coverage in healthcare workers, a Healthy People 2020 goal. Comments are due by Jan 16, 2012. According to the latest estimate from the US Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), the vaccination rate for the group so far this flu season is 63%.

The NVAC [draft guidance](#) includes tiered strategies for achieving the 90% goal while acknowledging that no single strategy would apply to all. Recommendations urge facilities to establish flu prevention programs based on CDC guidance and integrate vaccination into existing infection-control programs. The draft also suggests that federal officials standardize ways to measure vaccination rates in this group. For facilities that can't achieve the 90% goal, the NVAC recommends that administrators strongly consider an employer requirement. The report also urges the HHS to foster new and better vaccines.

### JOURNAL ARTICLES

The University of California Irvine Medical Center has raised its employee influenza vaccination rate above 90 percent by shifting from a voluntary vaccination program to one mandating all health care personnel (HCP) either get vaccinated or wear a mask at work for the entire flu season. A [five-year study](#) of evolving flu vaccination programs at University of California Irvine Medical Center is published in the January 2012 issue of *Infection Control and Hospital Epidemiology*. The results, the authors say, suggest voluntary programs are not enough to get meaningful increases in flu vaccination rates for HCP. An associated press release is [available here](#).

In an [article published](#) in the December 2011 issue of *Infection Control and Hospital Epidemiology*, the authors catalogued the infection rates among 139 health care personnel who were exposed to 6 of the first 8 laboratory-confirmed 2009 pandemic patients in the U.S. and demonstrated a 16% Acquisition Rate Among HCP.

### HCP News Articles

[Hospital workers don't always practice what the experts preach in getting flu shots, statistics reveal](#)

### NOVEL INFLUENZA A(H3N2)

According to researchers in [Eurosurveillance](#), a genetic analysis suggests that people who were exposed to influenza A/H3N2 viruses in the 1990s would probably have some protection against the swine-origin triple-reassortant (SOtr) H3N2 strain identified in 11 cases in the United States recently.

### Related News Article

[U-M Expert Discusses New Flu Strain](#)

### AVIAN H5N1 NEWS ARTICLES

- [A/H5N1 pre-pandemic influenza vaccine](#)
- [US government urges journals to omit details of two H5N1 studies](#)
- [Hong Kong raises bird flu alert level, bans imports](#)

### Additional Flu News Articles

- [Flu season's approaching, but fewer people have gotten flu shots](#)
- WILS 1320 Talk Radio interviewed our very own, Pat Vranesich. Click [here](#), scroll down and click on Pat's name.
- [New Rapid Flu Test Features Digital Readout](#)
- [Test Your Knowledge of Flu Vaccines With These 8 Common Myths About Getting Vaccinated](#)

### FLU RESOURCES

Stay up-to-date with:

MDCH: [www.michigan.gov/flu](http://www.michigan.gov/flu)

CDC: [www.cdc.gov/flu](http://www.cdc.gov/flu)

HHS: [www.flu.gov](http://www.flu.gov)

### MDCH'S MONTHLY FLU POSTERS

December: ["Spread Holiday Cheer. Not the Flu."](#)

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