



Michigan Department of Community Health, 201 Townsend Street, Lansing, Michigan 48909

SEASONAL FLU

FDA picks current strains for 2011-12 flu season

The US Food and Drug Administration's (FDA's) vaccine [advisory group today voted](#) to follow the World Health Organization's (WHO's) lead in keeping the current three strains for 2011-12 seasonal flu vaccine.

Related news article: [FDA Panel Keeps Same Formulation for 2011-12 Influenza Vaccine](#)

Hand Hygiene & Influenza

Emerging Infectious Diseases [published an article](#) on the effect of hand hygiene campaigns on the incidence of influenza and absenteeism in schoolchildren in Cairo, Egypt. The authors concluded that "an intensive hand hygiene campaign was effective in reducing absenteeism."

Keep Vaccinating

According to the recent [CDC FluView](#) weekly report, influenza is currently present in all 50 states and widespread in Michigan. Influenza vaccination is recommended for everyone age 6 months and older, so please keep vaccinating. If you don't have influenza vaccine, you can direct patients to the [Google Flu Vaccine Finder](#).

SEASONAL FLU NEWS ARTICLES

- [Flu upswing reported at Grand Rapids hospital: 15 patients in intensive care](#)
- [BioCryst Awarded Additional \\$55.0 Million by the U.S. Department of Health & Human Services to Complete Peramivir Phase 3 Program](#)
- [HHS awards contracts to develop new flu vaccine technology](#)
- [Study finds H1N1 and H9N2 offspring can be more lethal](#)
- [State, local lawmakers ponder paid sick leave legislation](#)

AVIAN INFLUENZA

- [Egypt reports 3 H5N1 infections, 1 fatal](#)
- Cumulative Number of Confirmed Human Cases of Avian Influenza A/(H5N1) Reported to WHO

PANDEMIC FLU

Peramivir use in the Pandemic

An analysis in the journal *Clinical Infectious Diseases* of 41 US patients treated with the intravenous antiviral peramivir under an Emergency Investigational New Drug authorization during the 2009 H1N1 influenza pandemic revealed that the drug was well tolerated and most patients recovered.

Genetic Changes in Pandemic H1N1

Researchers created a pandemic 2009 H1N1 virus mutation that increased its transmissibility, according to a [study published by PLoS One](#). Using reverse genetics, they created a single base-pair change in a receptor-binding site of the hemagglutinin (HA) protein on the virus's surface. They found that the mutation increased airborne transmission in ferrets and that "the increased human receptor-affinity is in the same range as that of the HA from highly transmissible seasonal and 1918 pandemic H1N1 viruses," they wrote. They conclude, "These findings are significant in the context of monitoring the evolution of the currently circulating 2009 H1N1 viruses."

Allocation of Vaccine in a Pandemic

Vaccine recently published "[Public engagement on ethical principles in allocating scarce resources during an influenza pandemic](#)." The authors concluded that current policies for allocating resources in a pandemic may not reflect the public's views and that further efforts are needed to assess public attitudes.

Pandemic Flu & the Environment

Environmental Health Perspectives recently published: "[Assessing the Ecotoxicologic Hazards of a Pandemic Influenza Medical Response](#)."

FLU RESOURCES

Stay up-to-date with:

MDCH: www.michigan.gov/flu

CDC: www.cdc.gov/flu

HHS: www.flu.gov

ADDITIONAL IMMUNIZATION NEWS

MDCH is pleased to announce the dates for the [2011 Fall Regional Immunization Conferences](#):

- Oct. 5 - E. Lansing
- Oct. 6 - Dearborn
- Oct. 18 - Gaylord
- Oct. 20 - Marquette
- Nov. 1 - Bay City
- Nov. 2 - Troy
- Nov. 9 - Kalamazoo
- Nov. 10 - Grand Rapids

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](#).