SEASONAL FLU
Influenza Vaccination Coverage
The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) recently launched a new website on influenza vaccination coverage which features interactive reports. The reports contain interactive maps, tables, bar charts, and line graphs of coverage estimates by selected age/priority groups and by race/ethnic groups. Also, the interactive reports allow users to customize screen views, change legend categories and colors, and create a variety of images that can be tailored to meet individual needs. For 2010-11 season and forward, the same format will be used for periodic posting of the latest within-season and timely post-season estimates. The website includes final estimates of 2009-10 monthly cumulative coverage of seasonal, monovalent 2009 H1N1 and combined influenza vaccination were recently posted on the new interactive website. A few things to note:

a) these data are based on self report via telephone surveys and have limitations,
b) these data are only broke down to the state-level; county level data are not available in this form,
c) there are numerous reports that can be created; CDC supplies a great user guide on the website,
d) A few summary data points for Michigan:
- Seasonal flu vaccination coverage for all persons 6 months and older in MI was 36.8% (46th compared to other states)
- Non-Hispanic whites had higher seasonal flu coverage (38.8%) than non-Hispanic blacks (28.7%), Hispanics (32.1%) and non-Hispanic Asians (21.6%).
- 2009 H1N1 influenza vaccination coverage for all persons 6 months and older was lower in Michigan (23.4%) compared to the US (27.0%).
- Michigan coverage for all persons 6 months of age and older receiving seasonal and/or H1N1 vaccine was 42.8% (US: 47.8%).

These data will be discussed in more detail at the next Flu Advisory Board meeting, May 25, 2011. In addition, MCIR data will be incorporated and coverage rates for the current 2010-11 influenza season will be presented.

Flu Vaccine Efficacy
Researchers from the University of Michigan recently published: “Efficacy Studies of Influenza Vaccines: Effect of End Points Used and Characteristics of Vaccine Failures,” in the Journal of Infectious Diseases. The Center for Infectious Disease Research & Policy (CIDRAP) summarizes the article here: Study: Some trials overestimated flu vaccine efficacy

Seasonal Flu and Pregnancy
On March 10, 2011 the CDC posted the following toolkit: Responding to Influenza:A Toolkit for Prenatal Care Providers

News Articles
Flu Shots: Public Health Begins With You
InDevR awarded $3 million grant from NIH for influenza-related research
Flu immunisation program begins

PANDEMIC FLU
Diagnostic Microbiology and Infectious Disease recently published: “Evidence of viremia in 2 cases of severe pandemic influenza A H1N1/09”

News Articles
HHS: 386 injury claims filed over H1N1 countermeasures

AVIAN INFLUENZA
H5N1 spreads from digestive tract to multiple organs
In a study to determine how the deadly H5N1 avian influenza virus spreads to the respiratory tract, researchers found that when the virus was directly inoculated into the stomach of ferrets and hamsters, within a day it had spread to multiple organs, including the lung, liver, and brain.

News Articles
H5N1 cases reported in Indonesia, Bangladesh
Another human case of bird flu surfaces

FLU RESOURCES
Stay up-to-date with:
MDCH: www.michigan.gov/flu
CDC: www.cdc.gov/flu
HHS: www.flu.gov

ADDITIONAL IMMUNIZATION NEWS
The March issue of the Michigan Immunization Timely Tips (MITT) has been posted at http://www.michigan.gov/immunize under the Provider Information section.

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.