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SEASONAL FLU

Intradermal Flu Vaccine

On May 10, the Food and Drug Administration (FDA) [announced the licensure](#) of Sanofi Pasteur's new intradermal microinjection flu vaccine which is indicated for active immunization of adults 18 through 64 years of age. The vaccine needle is 90 percent shorter than the typical needle used for intramuscular injection. In clinical trials, the vaccine produced an immune response at rates similar to Fluzone vaccine administered intramuscularly. Fluzone vaccine contains 15 mcg of hemagglutinin per strain of influenza in a 0.5 mL dose; Fluzone Intradermal contains 9 mcg of hemagglutinin per strain of influenza in a 0.1 mL dose. According to a recent [Center for Infectious Disease Research and Policy \(CIDRAP\)](#) article, the supply of Fluzone Intradermal is likely to be modest this year. The article also included the follow quote from a company spokesperson, "we still have to go to the ACIP [Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices] in June to get it added to the recommendations and still need to put in place all the reimbursement mechanisms."

2011-12 Flu Season

According to a recent CIDRAP article, [record flu vaccine production is expected again this year](#). The total number of doses is expected to range from 166 to 173 million; 163 million doses were distributed last season.

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) recently posted the following Q&A:

[Vaccine Selection for the 2011-2012 Influenza Season](#)

Flu Vaccination Coverage

Results of CDC's [National Flu Survey](#), which included data from Washtenaw County, reported that US flu vaccine uptake for children 6 months through 17 years was 46.2% and adult vaccination was 41.1%; Washtenaw County coverage was higher at 63.6% and 46.2% respectively. The most common place of vaccination among both adults (31.6% ± 3.8) and children (68.6% ± 8.0) was a doctor's office.

Flu Vaccination of Health Care Personnel

The [Journal of Infection Control and Hospital Epidemiology](#) published an article that looked at quality improvement projects for increasing HCP flu vaccination rates. Interventions included support of leadership, distribution of vaccine kits, grand rounds, an influenza website, a screensaver, e-mails, phone messages, and audit feedback. Vaccination rates increased from 58.8% to 76.6%. Quality improvement increased the voluntary vaccination rate but did not achieve a rate more than 80%.

Flu Vaccination in the Elderly

Vaccine recently [published a study](#) which found that "assessing frailty status in the elderly may identify those who are less likely to respond to TIV immunization and be at higher risk for seasonal influenza and its complications."

Influenza Surveillance

PLoS One recently published "[The Global Transmission and Control of Influenza](#)."

Flu Vaccine in Pregnant Women

Researchers in [Vaccine](#) state that vaccination in pregnant women in low- and middle-income countries is "an important and potentially cost-effective approach" for protecting both pregnant women and young infants. They note that flu vaccine "is not routinely used in most low- and middle-income countries and is not widely used in pregnant women worldwide." They also note that recent studies showed that flu vaccination in pregnant women can reduce confirmed flu cases in their newborn babies. Even in the least developed countries, about 70% of women receive prenatal care, offering an opportunity to vaccinate them, the report says.

News Articles

[Earlier flu shot better for pregnant women: study](#)

[Researchers make computerized proteins that can block flu virus](#)

[Study Evaluates Parents' Reluctance to Vaccinate Asthmatic Kids](#)

[Delaware health: Antiviral-resistant flu found in 8 more people](#)

FLU RESOURCES

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CDC: www.cdc.gov/flu

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

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