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FLU UPDATES

ANTIVIRAL MEDICATIONS

This week *The Cochrane Library* published a report that focuses on the effectiveness of the influenza drug oseltamivir (Tamiflu). The authors say their aim was to eliminate publication bias—the fact that studies with positive findings about an intervention are more likely to be published than those with negative or inconclusive findings. The Center for Infectious Disease Research & Policy (CIDRAP) summarizes the report [here](#). A Cochrane review editorial was also published, "[Neuraminidase inhibitors for influenza: methods change, principles don't.](#)"

Related News Articles:

[Review Challenges Tamiflu Efficacy](#)

[Continuing uncertainties surround anti-influenza drug](#)

Current Season Flu Activity

- [Flu Season Off to Slow Start, So Far](#)
- [Flu season could mean patients, doctors work while sick](#)
- [Google helps doctors track flu season: How?](#)

NEW ARTICLES

[Peek Through Time: Flu epidemic of 1918-19 ravaged Jackson, Michigan and world](#)

[Patients get half of preventive screens](#)

1st National Immunization Conference Online (NICO)

The 1st NICO, a virtual conference, will take place March 26-28, 2012. Workshops will include multiple presentations and will be one hour in length, and will be recorded. For more information go to the CDC's National Immunization Conference [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](#).

H5N1 AVIAN INFLUENZA

New Cases

The World Health Organization (WHO) confirmed three new H5N1 avian influenza cases from [Indonesia](#) and [Egypt](#), one of them fatal. Additionally, a provincial health official in Vietnam said an 18-year-old man has died of an H5N1 infection; if confirmed, this would be the first in nearly 2 years. Including the Vietnam case, the global H5N1 tally would rise to 582 cases and 343 deaths.

Related news articles:

- [Three countries report H5N1 cases, deaths](#)
- [Vietnam, Cambodia report bird flu deaths](#)

H5N1 Studies

The WHO will take the lead in helping sort through an international scientific controversy over two bird flu studies that the U.S. government deemed too dangerous to publish in full.

- [WHO to lead talks on controversial H5N1 studies](#)
- [WHO will help resolve bird flu studies controversy](#)
- [Life Sciences at a Crossroads: Respiratory Transmissible H5N1](#)

FLU RESOURCES

Stay up-to-date with:

MDCH: www.michigan.gov/flu

CDC: www.cdc.gov/flu

HHS: www.flu.gov

MDCH'S **MONTHLY** FLU POSTERS

January: "[It's a New Beginning. Resolve Not to Get the Flu This Year. It's The Easiest Resolution You'll Ever Make.](#)"

Resources developed by other States

The Texas Department of Health developed a "Protect Two from the Flu" campaign for pregnant women. View the website [here](#).

Additional Immunization News

A number of new recommendations were released toward the end of 2011. Several MDCH forms have been updated and posted [here](#).