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HEALTH CARE PERSONNEL (HCP) VACCINATION IN HOSPITALS

This week the Michigan Health and Hospital Association (MHA) and Michigan Department of Community Health (MDCH) released a [joint letter](#) signed by Dean Sienko, MD, acting chief medical executive of the MDCH, and Spencer Johnson, President of MHA to hospitals throughout the state. The letter encourages hospitals to learn more about protecting their organization's patients and staff from flu and pertussis, as well as how HCP vaccination is being addressed by the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services and The Joint Commission. MHA also posted updated talking points regarding HCP vaccination for [influenza](#) and [pertussis](#) and a sample policy to assist facilities in reviewing their current vaccination policies. Additional materials and resources with up-to-date information were posted on the [MHA website](#).

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) presented a webinar on the new National Healthcare Safety Network (NHSN) Healthcare Personnel Vaccination Module for the Healthcare Personnel Influenza Vaccination Summary. The webinar is now [available here](#).

HCP Vaccination Requirement in Rhode Island

HCP in [Rhode Island](#) must now be vaccinated against flu or else wear a mask when in contact with patients during times of widespread flu, under rules announced October 5 by the Rhode Island Department of Health.

FLU AND EGG ALLERGIES

In a [new study](#), researchers followed 367 egg-allergic people, mostly children, who got the flu shot over five years. Almost one-third of them had a history of anaphylaxis after eating eggs. None of those patients had a serious reaction to the flu vaccine and only 13 of the 367 had mild "allergy-like" symptoms, such as itchy skin or hives.

JOURNAL ARTICLES

- [Scientific investigations into febrile reactions observed in the paediatric population following vaccination with a 2010 Southern Hemisphere Trivalent Influenza Vaccine](#)
- [Development of new generation of influenza vaccines: Recipes for success?](#)

FLU & ACUTE MYOCARDIAL INFARCTIONS

According to a [new study](#) in the *Journal of Infectious Diseases*, acute respiratory infections, especially influenza, can act as a trigger for acute myocardial infarction (AMI). The study group comprised 11,208 patients who experienced AMI and were 40 years of age or older at the age of first AMI. The authors analyzed their records to determine whether there was any association of AMI in the group with acute respiratory infection (ARI). They found that 3,927 (35.0%) of the AMI patients had been seen for ARI during the study period. As a reminder, in Michigan influenza vaccination coverage in high risk groups - such as those with cardiac disease - during the 2011-12 flu season was [only 43.6%](#).

Related Editorial: [Increasing Evidence that Influenza is a Trigger for Cardiovascular Disease](#)

INFLUENZA NEWS ARTICLES

- [CDC targets holdout health workers on flu shots](#)
- [Flu shot should be mandatory for Ontario health workers, health agency says](#)
- [Working toward a universal vaccine for all influenza A and B viruses](#)

PANDEMIC INFLUENZA

A newly identified diary was published in [Emerging Infectious Diseases](#) from a soldier in 1918 describing aspects of a troop ship outbreak of pandemic influenza.

Avian Influenza

On [October 1, 2012](#) the World Health Organization (WHO) published a summary report on human infections with avian influenza A(H5N1) virus and associated animal health events. From 2003 through 1 October 2012, 608 laboratory-confirmed human cases with avian influenza A(H5N1) virus infection have been officially reported to WHO from 15 countries, of which 359 died.

- [Experts ponder H5N1 research moratorium issues](#)
- [Virus Experts Address the Moratorium on Potentially Hazardous H5N1 Influenza Research](#)

FLU RESOURCES

Stay up-to-date with:

MDCH: www.michigan.gov/flu

CDC: www.cdc.gov/flu

HHS: www.flu.gov

HealthMap Vaccine Finder

The [HealthMap Vaccine Finder](#) is now available to promote flu and other adult vaccinations to the public.

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