



Michigan Department of Community Health, 201 Townsend Street, Lansing, MI 48933

## FLU UPDATES

### ADVISORY COMMITTEE ON IMMUNIZATION PRACTICES (ACIP)

This week, the ACIP discussed the past flu season and vaccine recommendations for the upcoming 2012-13 influenza season. Key points include:

- The flu infection rate during the 2011-2012 was about half that of the previous year.
- Factors that may have contributed to the low level:
  - 3rd season of 2009 H1N1 virus circulation and the second season of the same H3N2 and influenza B strains
  - A good vaccine and circulating strain match
  - Protection from vaccine coverage and natural immunity
- Interim findings on flu vaccine efficacy showed 50% effectiveness with levels holding steady by age-group.
  - Early findings suggest the vaccine was about 47% effective against influenza A/H3N2 strains and 80% effective against 2009 H1N1 and influenza B
  - The study is continuing and more definitive estimates are expected soon.
- [Two options were debated](#) on the number of flu vaccines children aged 6 months through 8 years need. The group voted that:
- If a child has not received a flu vaccine, they should receive 2 doses separated by at least 4 weeks.
- Children who have received two or more flu vaccine doses since July 2010 should receive one dose.
  - If not, they should receive two doses separated by at least 4 weeks.

We will distribute the official recommendation when it is released.

### Related news article on the ACIP meeting:

- [ACIP reviews flu vaccine efficacy and safety, tweaks dosing for kids](#)
- [Review of the 2011-2012 winter influenza season, northern hemisphere](#)

### Influenza News Articles

- New Zealand: [Hospitals prepared for possible flu outbreak](#)
- [Parents told to trust flu vaccines for children](#)
- [CSL says flu vaccine components led to kids' seizures](#)

### Journal Articles

- [How influenza vaccination policy may affect vaccine logistics](#)
- [Deviations in influenza seasonality: odd coincidence or obscure consequence?](#)

### Avian Influenza & Pandemic Preparedness

The second controversial study showing that it takes as few as five mutations to turn the H5N1 avian influenza virus into an airborne spreader in mammals was released today in a special edition of [Science](#). The study describes the full experimental details that many experts sought to suppress out of concern that publishing them could lead to the unleashing of a dangerous virus. The article is accompanied by additional news and commentary articles on the highly debated subject.

### Related news articles:

- Center for Infectious Disease Research & Policy (CIDRAP): [Fouchier study reveals changes enabling airborne spread of H5N1](#)
- CIDRAP: [DURC policy in flux in the wake of published H5N1 studies](#)

The CDC recently updated some of their resources:

- [Avian Influenza Current Situation](#)
- [Avian Influenza in Birds](#)
- [Avian Influenza A Virus Infections in Humans](#)
- [CDC Resources for Pandemic Flu](#)
- [Influenza Risk Assessment Tool \(IRAT\)](#)

### Additional news articles:

- [HHS creates new centers to develop, manufacture medical countermeasures](#)
- [Glaxo, Novartis to get U.S. contracts to make vaccines](#)

## FLU RESOURCES

Stay up-to-date with:

MDCH: [www.michigan.gov/flu](http://www.michigan.gov/flu)

CDC: [www.cdc.gov/flu](http://www.cdc.gov/flu)

HHS: [www.flu.gov](http://www.flu.gov)

A [Special Edition Michigan Immunization Timely Tips](#) (MITT) was published on a Vaccine Storage and Handling Report released by the Office of Inspector General (OIG) on June 6, 2012.

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