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THE IMPACT OF INFLUENZA ON CHILDREN

Children have the highest attack rate for influenza compared to all other age groups. Two studies in the current issue of *Pediatrics* highlight that children with neurologic conditions are at particularly high risk of complications resulting from influenza infection. [In the first article](#), children with underlying neurologic conditions in Canada had an increased risk of ICU admission after either seasonal or pandemic influenza A infection. [In the second](#), neurologic disorders were identified in nearly half of all pediatric deaths associated with 2009 H1N1 pandemic influenza in the United States. It is also important to note that there was significant morbidity among children without known risk factors. As described in [a summary article](#) in *Pediatrics*, Half of all hospitalizations from seasonal influenza A during 2004-2009 and almost a third of all deaths during the 2009-2010 pandemic occurred in children with no underlying medical conditions. Recent surveillance data from the United States indicate this trend continued through the 2010-2011 influenza season when 49% of pediatric deaths and 52% of pediatric hospitalizations occurred in children without a high-risk medical condition.

Related Press Release: [Children with neurologic disorders at high risk of death from flu](#)

On Tuesday, Sept. 18, 1-2PM there will be a Live Twitter chat to discuss influenza prevention and treatment for parents and caregivers with health professionals from CDC, the AAP, Family Voices and Families Fighting Flu. To join the live chat, follow the #CDCFluChat hashtag on Twitter.

On Thursday, Sept. 27, 2-3PM Clinician Outreach and Communication Activity (COCA) is having a webinar hosted by AAP physicians on this topic. More information to follow.

News Articles:

- [Study: H1N1 pandemic hit kids with neuro conditions hard](#)
- [Neurologic Conditions Raise Flu Mortality Risk in Children](#)
- [When Flu Hits, Kids With Neurological Problems Are Vulnerable](#)
- [Children with neurologic disorders at high risk of death from flu](#)

VARIANT INFLUENZA A H3N2 (H3N2v) CASES

For updated information on the outbreaks visit the CDC website: [Influenza A \(H3N2\) Variant Virus Outbreaks](#)

MDCH continues to report 5 cases; visit www.michigan.gov/flu for more information.

INFLUENZA RELATED NEWS ARTICLES

- [Influenza infection occurs before symptoms appear, study suggests](#)
- [Flu vaccine stickers rile nurses' union](#)
- [Flu shot fears shouldn't trump patient safety](#)
- [Walmart, CVS, RiteAid Step Up The Flu Shot Fight](#)

FLU RESOURCES

Stay up-to-date with:

MDCH: www.michigan.gov/flu

CDC: www.cdc.gov/flu

HHS: www.flu.gov

NFID "LEADING BY EXAMPLE" INITIATIVE

Through its [Leading by Example initiative](#), the National Foundation for Infectious Diseases (NFID) is calling on healthcare professionals and business and community leaders to "lead by example" and get vaccinated annually to help prevent influenza in our communities. NFID issued an [influenza prevention commitment statement](#) calling on these leaders, as well as individuals, to do their part to make influenza prevention a health priority for all. Organizations and public figures can show their support for influenza prevention by adding their name to the commitment statement by September 10. Supporters of this program will be included in press materials at NFID's Influenza-Pneumococcal News Conference on September 27 and in the list of supporters on its website.

HealthMap Vaccine Finder

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

Vaccine Education Center September 12 Webinar on Current Vaccine Issues

The Vaccine Education Center (VEC) at Children's Hospital of Philadelphia will present a webinar, ["Current Issues in Vaccines—Fall 2012"](#) featuring VEC director Paul Offit, MD beginning at noon (ET) on September 12.

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](#).