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**SEASONAL INFLUENZA ACTIVITY**

Last week, influenza activity continued to decrease in the U.S. Michigan was one of 19 states that reported ‘local’ influenza activity. ‘Sporadic’ activity was reported by 18 states.

**National News**

- CDC’s FluView (week ending March 15, 2014)
  - 75 flu-associated pediatric deaths have been reported for the 2013-14 season
- **U.S. flu season continues slow decline**
- Seasonal H3 strain now circulating in Rhode Island
- Influenza continues to claim lives of Oklahomans
- Five new flu deaths reported in North Carolina

**INFLUENZA-RELATED JOURNAL ARTICLES**

- **Child, household, and caregiver characteristics associated with hospitalization for influenza among children 6-59 months of age**
  - Study among U.S. Emerging Infections Program sites
  - Chronic illnesses, young maternal age, poverty, household smoking, and lack of household influenza vaccination increased risk of flu hospitalization of young children
- **Comparative community burden and severity of seasonal and pandemic influenza: results of the Flu Watch cohort study**
  - Community-based study comparing burden, severity of seasonal, pandemic flu in England over 5 years
  - Average 18% of unvaccinated community infected with flu each season, 77% of these asymptomatic
- **Effectiveness of neuraminidase inhibitors in reducing mortality in patients admitted to hospital with 2009 H1N1 virus infection: a meta-analysis**
  - Hospitalized adults who received neuraminidase inhibitors ≤2 days of symptom onset were half as likely to die as hospitalized adults not treated
- **North Atlantic migratory bird flyways provide routes for intercontinental movement of avian influenza viruses**
  - Detected viruses entirely of American lineage, entirely of Eurasian lineage, and viruses with mixed American-Eurasian lineage

**AVIAN INFLUENZA A (H7N9) NEWS AND ARTICLES**

The global outbreak total is now at 397 cases and 120 deaths since February 2013. Hong Kong reported an imported illness this week in a 5-month-old girl from mainland China. She visited Guangdong province before her illness onset.

In related news, a mapping study that recently predicted the spread of H7N9 into Guangxi province has identified northern Vietnam as the next high-risk area. The findings support the need for increased surveillance in northern Vietnam for human illnesses and positive samples from live-poultry markets.

- **Hong Kong investigates imported H7N9 case in 5 month-old baby girl**
- **First serologic study for influenza A(H7N9) virus among veterinarians in Guangdong, China**
  - Chinese research team tested blood samples from vets in Guangdong, found no evidence of H7N9 infection
  - Because viruses can change rapidly, seems prudent to monitor high-risk groups like vets, poultry workers, and healthcare workers

**AVIAN INFLUENZA A (H5N1) NEWS ARTICLES**

- **H5N1 outbreak in Cambodia, low-path H5N2 in Netherlands**
- **9th human case of H5N1 in Cambodia in 2014**
- **Long-term booster schedules with adjuvanted H5N1 vaccines induces rapid and broad immune responses in Asian adults**
  - Adjuvanted booster dose of H5N1 vaccine given to adults 6, 12, or 36 months after they received the first of two doses produced strong antibody responses
  - Immunogenicity decreased with time, but vaccinated persons could potentially be protected up to 3 years after vaccination

**OTHER INFLUENZA-RELATED NEWS**

- **Study shows correlation between exercise and decreased risk of influenza infection**
- **Google Flu Trends overestimated flu cases by over 50%**
- **South Korea culls over 6% of poultry to curb bird flu**

**FLU WEBSITES**

- www.michigan.gov/flu
- www.cdc.gov/flu
- www.flu.gov
- http://vaccine.healthmap.org/