NEW AND IMPROVED AIM WEBSITE!
The AIM Coalition has launched the new and improved AIM Toolkit website. The website address, www.aimtoolkit.org, is still the same, but the site looks very different. The homepage is separated into information for healthcare personnel and individuals/families. Updates will continue throughout the summer. Everything in the 2014 AIM Toolkit is on the website. We hope you enjoy the new site!

ALANA’S FOUNDATION ANNUAL FUNDRAISER
Join Alana’s Foundation for their 2014 Cruisin’ Summer Concert Bash! This year’s event will be Thursday, August 14 at the Crofoot Ballroom in Pontiac. Visit their website for more information.

RECOMMENDATION - USING IIS TO INCREASE VACCINATION
The Community Preventive Services Task Force recently posted new information regarding using immunization information systems (IIS) to increase vaccination rates. The task force recommends IIS on the basis of strong evidence of effectiveness in increasing vaccination rates. Remember, enter immunization data into MCIR!

MDCH SUMMER GUIDANCE ON H3N2V
In preparation for the summer and fair season, MDCH has updated their guidance for healthcare providers on H3N2v and other variant influenza viruses. You can find the guidance here. Make sure to consider variant influenza in patients over the summer with respiratory illness and recent swine exposure.

AVIAN INFLUENZA A(H7N9) NEWS AND JOURNAL ARTICLES
The global outbreak total remains at 449 cases with at least 157 deaths since February 2013.

INFLUENZA-RELATED JOURNAL ARTICLES
- Mutations of novel influenza A(H10N8) virus in chicken eggs and MDCK cells
  - Suggests the novel H10N8 virus has an avian origin
  - Only 2 human infections have been reported
- Circulating avian influenza viruses closely related to the 1918 virus have pandemic potential
  - Circulating avian flu viruses encode proteins similar to 1918 pandemic flu virus
  - Suggest 1918-like pandemic viruses may emerge in the future
- Influenza virus infectivity and virulence following ocular-only aerosol inoculation of ferrets
  - Ferrets infected through only the eyes readily transmitted virus to other ferrets
  - Suggests in absence of eye protection, human ocular surface is vulnerable to infection with aerosolized respiratory viruses
- Incidence of influenza virus infections in children in Hong Kong in a three year randomized placebo-controlled vaccine study, 2009-2012
  - Results indicated there was little continued protection afforded by trivalent inactivated influenza vaccine beyond a year after vaccination

OTHER INFLUENZA-RELATED NEWS
- Rapid influenza tests need to be more reliable, FDA says
- Province eyes mandatory flu shots for health workers
- Protein Sciences adds distributor for Flublok recombinant influenza vaccine to increase access

FluBytes is distributed to MDCH flu partners for informational and communication purposes. Please feel free to distribute widely. Archived editions of FluBytes are available here and MI FluFocus archives are here.