

Flu Advisory Board (FAB) Meeting
November 19, 2008
12:30 p.m. – 3:00 p.m. (EST)

Members in Attendance:

Bob Swanson (MDCH); Pat Vranesich (MDCH); Rob Miller (MDCH); Courtnay McFeters (MDCH); JoEllen Wolicki (MDCH); Barbara Wolicki (MDCH); Terri Adams (MDCH); Jan Arsenault (MDCH); Becky Taylor (MDCH); Kevin Czubachowski (MDCH); Carolee Besteman (MDCH); Bea Salada (MPCA); Patricia White (Oakland Co. HD); Susan Vagasky (MDCH); Jennifer Rihtarchik (Sanofi Pasteur); Donna Nussdorfer (Washtenaw Co. HD); Michael Parent (Macomb County HD); Pat Krehn (Muskegon Co. HD); Holly Katsaros (Novartis); Talat Danish (Wayne Co. HD); Sue Schryber (Muskegon Co. HD); Dawn Lukomski (Detroit Co. HD); Wendy Ridenouk (Ingham Co. HD); Tawnya Simon (Saginaw Co. HD); Marian Beck Clore (MI Dept Corrections); May Hang (Minute Clinic/CVS Pharmacy); Joshua Myerson (NWMCHA), John Iskander (CDC); Regina Crooks (Calhoun Co. HD); Kate McPherson (MSMS)

Members on the Phone:

Jim Szyskowski (Kroger); Karine Pawlicki (VNA SE MI)

Minutes from August FAB meeting approved

Education & Communication (EC-FAB) Subcommittee Update

[Why Flu Vaccination Matters](#) video (created by CDC and Families Fighting Flu) was shown to FAB members

2008-09 Seasonal Flu Campaign

- Remember to use the “Flu Vaccine: For Every One, Every Year” slogan on any materials
- Flu buttons are available to place on your website with a link to www.michigan.gov/flu

MDCH Flu Website Reorganization (www.michigan.gov/flu)

- Targeted messages available for:
 - Health professionals
 - Community vaccinators
 - Individuals and families
 - Businesses and the workplace
 - Schools and daycares
 - Clinical laboratories

Vaccinating Health Care Personnel (HCP) against Influenza

- Joint Commission Resources, Flu Vaccination Challenge: www.FluVaccinationChallenge.com
- Flu Fighter Action Kit for Health Care Personnel: www.michigan.gov/flufighterkit

- Bronson Hospital Update
 - Extended its mandatory influenza immunization program from direct patient care staff to all employees.
 - That adds about 200 people who were not included last year.
 - Expects to have all immunizations done before Thanksgiving.

- Trinity Health
 - Program in place for vaccinating HCP (95% vaccination rate)
 - I will be talking to them shortly and will get back to the group with some best practices
 - Going to feature in FluBytes

Other MDCH Flu-Related Education and Outreach

Letters from Medical Director

- Available for use on flu and [Flu Fighter Kit websites](#)

Brochures Available

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- “Keep Your Family Safe from the Flu” and “Diabetes and Flu”
- Available at www.healthymichigan.com
- Plenty of brochures available – make sure you are distributing these

[Fifth Guy campaign](#)

- Timeframe: November – January timeframe
- Adapted from Florida Dept of Health; MDCH tag for free
- 4 out of 5 people wash their hands – don't be the 5th guy

Monthly [Press Releases](#)

- First released on 10/3/08 and recent press release on first case of flu released on 11/14/08
- Keep your eyes open and please distribute them to your partners and local media contacts

Influenza [Video Vignettes](#) for the Public

Leadership & Deployment Subcommittee Update

- No updates

2008-09 Michigan Seasonal Flu Surveillance Update

- First 2 flu cases of 2008-09 flu season confirmed by MDCH laboratories:
 - 49 year-old male from Wayne County
 - 5 year-old child from Oakland County
 - One confirmed as influenza A and the other confirmed as influenza B
- [Press release issued](#) on November 14, 2008
- Current flu activity in Michigan is “sporadic”
- Nationally, both influenza A and B viruses have been seen this season

Flu Google Trends

Robert Wood Johnson Foundation

- New tool to identify and track influenza outbreaks: <http://www.google.org/flutrends/>
- Monitor the number of queries for influenza and influenza-like symptoms entered into its search engine to determine the geographical location and nature of seasonal flu activity
- CDC will use the information to issue alerts to hospitals, clinics and physician offices in affected regions, enabling providers to stock up on influenza tests; antiviral drugs; and antibiotics for people who develop bacterial co-infections, which can worsen the severity of the flu.

NFID September Press Conference

National Foundation for Infectious Diseases (NFID)

- Wednesday, September 24, 2008 NFID held their annual press conference to urge annual flu vaccination for nearly 85 percent of Americans.
- Participating organizations: National Foundation for Infectious Diseases (NFID), National Influenza Vaccine Summit (NIVS), Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS), American Academy of Pediatrics (AAP), American Medical Association (AMA), AARP
- Key points:
 - Flu vaccine is readily available in the U.S.
 - Anyone who wants to decrease their risk of getting the flu can get vaccinated.
 - Vaccination, regardless of age, offers the best method to prevent disease
 - The reformulated vaccine is expected to provide protection
 - Importance of physician recommendation

MMWR Flu Vaccination Rates

Morbidity and Mortality Weekly Report (MMWR), [September 26, 2008](#)

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ACIP June/October 2008 Meeting

Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices (ACIP)

- Dr. Schuchat: “While the science of flu is complicated, communication about flu and flu vaccine is even more complicated. As more and better data become available during the flu season, the priority of strong communication is very high.”

Flu Vaccine Effectiveness among Children 6 to 59 Months of Age

Archives of Pediatrics and Adolescent Medicine, 2008

- Examined the ability of the flu vaccine to (1) prevent hospitalizations and (2) reduce physician visits for flu in children during the 2003-04 and 2004-05 flu seasons.
- Results did not demonstrate significant flu vaccine effectiveness in children for either of the seasons after adjusting for county, sex, insurance, chronic conditions recommended for influenza vaccination, and timing of influenza vaccination.
- Vaccine effectiveness estimates ranged from 7-52% across settings and seasons for fully vaccinated 6- to 59-months-old children.
- Although the effectiveness estimates suggested a benefit, the estimates were not statistically significant.
- Other studies have shown flu vaccination does help protect young children from influenza.
- This study reaffirms the need for continued efforts to improve influenza vaccines and the consistency of their effectiveness.

Effectiveness of Materials Influenza Immunization in Mothers and Infants

New England Journal of Medicine, 2008

- The purpose of this study was to assess clinical effectiveness of inactivated influenza vaccine (TIV or the “flu shot”) administered during pregnancy
- Results demonstrated a 2 for 1 protection with flu vaccination of pregnant mothers, in that by vaccinating the mother, you also get substantial protection for the infant
- Specific findings included:
 - Fewer cases of laboratory confirmed influenza among infants of mothers who received flu vaccine verses those infants in the control group, with a vaccine effectiveness of 63% in those infants.
 - Flu vaccination averted 1/3 (reduction of 36%) of all febrile respiratory illnesses in mothers and young infants
- This study provides additional scientific support for the recommendation to vaccinate pregnant women both for their own protection, as well as protection of their infants.
- A new campaign entitled, “Flu Free and a Mom-to-Be” is available through the National Women’s Health Resource Center: www.healthywomen.org

National Influenza Vaccination Week (NIVW)

- December 8-14, 2008
 - Tuesday, December 9th: Children's Vaccination Day
 - Thursday, December 11th: Seniors' vaccination Day
 - Friday, December 12th: Health Care Workers' Vaccination Day
- Purpose: To highlight the importance of continuing flu vaccination, as well as foster greater use of flu vaccine through the months of November, December and beyond.
- Website: www.cdc.gov/flu/nivw

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VFC Influenza Vaccine Update

- 3,023 flu VFC doses wasted in 2007-08 flu season at a cost of \$38,482.79
- With expanded recommendations for children 6 months through 18 years, no flu doses should be wasted in 2008-09
- Reasons why vaccine was wasted: Late arrival of vaccines, Refusing to take vaccine once ordered, Providers not vaccinating after the holiday season
- VFC flu vaccine is allocated per state by CDC – CDC determine allocation based on amount of available doses received and number of doses requested by states
- Providers received private purchase flu vaccine before public vaccine was delivered.
- Public vaccine distribution delayed with CDC VACMAN and McKesson.
- Some people got double or triple their orders – then we were over our allocation – system wasn't fool-proof
- MDCH has been meeting routinely with CDC and McKesson; we have been reporting each and every single issue
- MDCH VFC providers ordered flu vaccine from sanofi and MedImmune this year (FluMist and Fluzone) - Total of doses ordered and shipped 225,930 (includes 2,000 extra MDVs from Ohio)
- As of 11/17/08: 100% of all VFC flu order have been filled

Blue Cross/Blue Shield Coverage of FluMist

- MDCH doesn't bill private insurance, however we have received many questions from LHDs and providers regarding LAIV coverage through BCBS
- Pat Vranesich worked with Susan Bass from IHA and Heather Richmond from MedImmune on this issue
- LAIV is covered by BCBS, however certain employer groups (especially those in the automotive industry) are not covering LAIV
- Insurance plans that do not have immunization coverage are also not covering LAIV (those children less than 19 years would be eligible for VFC)
- There are pockets in the Detroit area where LAIV is not covered

BCBSM CHANGES continued from Page 7

Code and Description	BCBSM Changes to: Basic Benefit Policy + Group Variations Payment Policy (for Michigan providers) + Guidelines
NEW PAYABLE PROCEDURES <i>continued</i>	
*90473 Immunization administration by intranasal or oral route; one vaccine (single or combination vaccine/toxoid)	Basic Benefit Policy Effective Sept. 19, 2007, the intranasal flu vaccine (live, attenuated influenza vaccine-LAIV) is payable when given to healthy patients between ages 2 and 49 in accordance with the Food and Drug Administration and the Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices recommendations. Payable only to an M.D. or D.O.
*90660 Influenza virus vaccine, live, for intranasal use	Group Variations Not a contract benefit for Chrysler, Continental (formerly Siemens), MPERS, State of Michigan and TRW. Also, not payable for groups without immunization benefits.

Flu Vaccine Storage and Handling Issues

- Vaccine storage and handling has been an ongoing concern for MDCH, especially during flu season when many community clinics are being held and vaccine is being transported more frequently.
- MDCH promotes the guidelines used in the [CDC Storage and Handling Toolkit](#)
- Common issues that MDCH often hears about include:
 - Clinics being conducted over the weekends when the main office isn't open and public health nurses storing vaccine in their home refrigerator
 - Storing the vaccine in a zip lock bag

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- Pre-filling syringes
- Resource: www.aimtoolkit.org → Vaccine Storage and Resources

Using Appropriate Needle-Lengths

- There has been some concern from providers and local health departments about the length of the needle included with the Novartis pre-filled syringe presentation
- This was discussed at the Association of Immunization Managers (AIM) conference call in September
- Many states share these same concerns about needle length
- On 9/29/08, Dr. Jeannie Santoli sent a response to this concern:
 - CDC confirmed with Novartis that the pre-filled syringe on CDC's contract (NDC # 66521-0111-01) contains a 25 G x5/8" staked needle (permanently affixed to the syringe)
 - This needle length is the recommended length for children and adults less than 130 lbs, as noted in the ACIP General Recommendations
 - When possible, CDC encourages the use of this presentation in children and adults less than 130 lbs
 - However, the Novartis pre-filled syringe presentation is licensed for use in persons aged 4 years and older, regardless of weight, and can be used that way if there is not other vaccine available as a substitute
 - Close attention to administration technique is critical if this presentation is used for a person weighing more than 130 pounds to assure that the vaccine is injected into the muscle and not into subcutaneous tissue.

Flu Gossip

- Michigan Nurses Association (MNA) passed their [Statement Regarding Seasonal Influenza](#) – use this as a template for your organization

Meeting adjourned at 3:00 p.m.

2009 FAB Meetings:

February 18, 2009
May 20, 2009
August 19, 2009
November 18, 2009