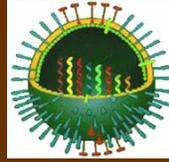


FLUBYTES



March 13, 2009

Michigan Department of Community Health, 201 Townsend Street, Lansing, MI 48913
For additional flu information visit: www.michigan.gov/flu

Latest Flu News

INFLUENZA ASSOCIATED PEDIATRIC MORTALITY

In the week of February 22-28, CDC received reports of five more U.S. children killed by complications from influenza; the season total now stands at 22. Thirty-one states have reported widespread influenza activity, up from 27 the previous week. Yearly vaccination is the first and most important step in protecting against influenza and its complications.

It is important to continue vaccinating into the spring months. The supply of influenza vaccine is robust; if you run out of vaccine in your work setting, please place another order. Remember, to access Michigan's Influenza Vaccine Exchange Network (IVEN), a centralized location to share information about privately purchased flu vaccine inventory. IVEN can be used to facilitate vaccine redistribution by licensed physicians, local health departments, pharmacy staff, nursing homes, hospitals, and other healthcare or vaccine providers. IVEN is only accessible to sites that are registered to use MCIR and is **not** to be used for public (VFC) vaccine. For further information, view [IVEN Guidelines & Policy](#) and the [IVEN Quick Tip Sheet](#).

PREPARING FOR THE 2009-10 INFLUENZA SEASON

Patients 5 to 18 years old should receive the influenza vaccine during the upcoming 2009-10 season, according to a Feb. 25 vote the Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices took at its meeting in Atlanta. The ACIP previously stated that influenza immunization of this age group should occur when feasible during the 2008-09 season. The more recent action is part of the transition to making this a routine part of child and adolescent care. Click [here](#) for the full article.

Antiviral Resistance

INFECTIONS WITH OSELTAMIVIR-RESISTANT INFLUENZA A(H1N1) VIRUS IN THE UNITED STATES

In an article in the latest edition of the *Journal of the American Medical Association*, the authors describe patients infected with oseltamivir-resistant influenza A(H1N1)virus and describe whether there were any differences between these patients and patients infected with oseltamivir-susceptible A(H1N1) virus in demographic or epidemiological characteristics, clinical symptoms, severity of illness, or clinical outcomes. To read the entire article, click [here](#).

Flu Surveillance Update

Flu activity throughout Michigan remained steady at "regional" level for the week ending March 7, 2009. MDCH labs confirmed 39 influenza cases, bringing the season total to 203: 68 influenza Bs and 135 influenza As (124 A/H1N1s). Twenty-four influenza A/H1N1 viruses from Michigan have been tested for antiviral resistance at CDC for the 2008-2009 season. All 24 viruses were resistant to oseltamivir (Tamiflu®) and sensitive to zanamivir, amantadine and rimantadine.

For additional surveillance information, the MI Flu Focus is [archived](#) and the most current edition is included in this email. To find out about influenza activity in the U.S., visit <http://www.cdc.gov/flu/weekly/fluactivity.htm>

Flu Resources

Archive of California's webcast "Vaccines: Wading through the Confusion" is now [available here](#). Originally held on February 19, the webcast is a 1.5-hour video featuring a panel of medical, scientific, public health, and communication professionals discussing parents' questions and fears about vaccines. It also includes parents whose lives have been touched by vaccine-preventable diseases or by autism.

Access the following links for up-to-date resources:

Michigan's influenza web page: www.michigan.gov/flu

- Seasonal, Pandemic and Avian influenza
- Flu Advisory Board
- Information for Healthcare professionals, community vaccinators, clinical laboratories, families, and businesses

Flu Fighter Action Kit for Health Care Personnel
www.michigan.gov/flu/flufighterkit

CDC influenza web page: www.cdc.gov/flu

MDCH would like to extend an invite for any interested health care professional to become involved in the Flu Advisory Board (FAB). To join FAB, contact Liz Harton, CDC Public Health Advisor at hartone@michigan.gov.

FluBytes is distributed to MDCH flu partners for informational and communication purposes. Please feel free to distribute widely. An archived list of past FluBytes issues can be found [here](#).