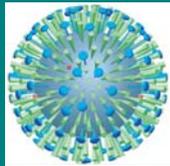


# FLUBYTES



April 10, 2009

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

## Latest Flu News

### **TWO PEDIATRIC INFLUENZA-ASSOCIATED MORTALITIES REPORTED IN SOUTHEAST MICHIGAN**

During the previous week, two pediatric influenza-associated mortalities were reported to Michigan Department of Community Health (MDCH), one in a 5 year old and one in a 6 year old. Both cases were from the Southeast Influenza Surveillance Region and have positive influenza B test results associated with them. Investigations by both local health department staff and MDCH are ongoing. Three influenza-associated pediatric mortalities have been reported in Michigan to MDCH for the 2008-2009 influenza season.

In the week ending April 4, 2009, CDC received reports of two more U.S. children killed by complications from influenza; the season total now stands at 45 nationally. Annual 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. For more information about annual vaccination visit Michigan's Influenza web page at: [www.michigan.gov/flu](http://www.michigan.gov/flu) or the CDC influenza web page at [www.cdc.gov/flu](http://www.cdc.gov/flu).

### **FLU SHOT ADVISED FOR TRAVELERS TO SOUTHERN HEMISPHERE**

According to the CDC, influenza is the most common vaccine-preventable disease among travelers. Individuals traveling to the Southern Hemisphere are advised to be vaccinated against the flu, as flu season there has just commenced, running from April to September. This year, the flu strains used in the Southern Hemisphere's vaccines are identical to those in the vaccines of the Northern Hemisphere. The CDC issued this notice in the April 2 [Morbidity and Mortality Weekly Report](#).

### **MANDATORY FLU VACCINATION PROGRAM ACHIEVED ALMOST TOTAL COMPLIANCE**

A mandatory influenza vaccination campaign at BJC HealthCare reached a compliance rate of 98.4 percent after it was implemented in October 2008. Dr. Hillary Babcock, of the Washington University School of Medicine in St. Louis, Mo., presented the results at the Society for Healthcare Epidemiology of America's 2009 Annual Scientific Meeting in San Diego. The vaccination requirement applied to 25,982 active employees, but it allowed for medical or religious exemptions. For more details, click [here](#).

## Flu Surveillance Update

A recent [article in Newsweek](#) states that the 2008-2009 flu season appears to be winding down. According to the CDC, the flu season was the mildest seen in years with one possible explanation being that the flu vaccine generally matched the circulating flu viruses. A record 146 million doses of flu vaccine were distributed for the current season, although the CDC does not have data on how many people actually received the vaccine.

Michigan influenza activity coincided with this article with a continued decline for the week ending April 4, 2009. For additional surveillance information access [MI Flu Focus](#) archives or the most current edition is included in this email.

## Avian Influenza

### **FDA CLEARS RAPID TEST FOR AVIAN INFLUENZA A VIRUS IN HUMANS**

On April 7, 2009 the U.S. Food and Drug Administration cleared for marketing a more rapid test for the detection of influenza A/H5N1, a disease-causing subtype of the avian influenza A virus that can infect humans. The test detects influenza A/H5N1 in throat or nose swabs collected from patients who have flu-like symptoms. The test identifies in less than 40 minutes a specific protein (NS1) that indicates the presence of the influenza A/H5N1 virus subtype. Click [here](#) for the complete article.

## Flu Resources

Michigan's influenza web page: [www.michigan.gov/flu](http://www.michigan.gov/flu)

Flu Fighter Action Kit for Health Care Personnel  
[www.michigan.gov/flufighterkit](http://www.michigan.gov/flufighterkit)

CDC influenza web page: [www.cdc.gov/flu](http://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](mailto: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](#). In April, FluBytes will be distributed bi-weekly.