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EPIDEMIOLOGY OF 2009 H1N1

Herd Immunity

According to a [randomized trial](#) that appears in the *Journal of the American Medical Association* vaccinating children from the flu can help protect unvaccinated adults against influenza as well. Researchers conducted a randomized trial in 46 Hutterite religious communities in Canada during the 2008-09 flu season in which 947 children aged 3 to 15 were given either the seasonal flu vaccine or, as a control, the hepatitis A vaccine. Flu-vaccine coverage in the communities was 83%. Among communities where children and teens got the flu vaccine, the attack rate for flu was 3.1%; among the control communities, it was 7.6%. The researchers say those results offer experimental evidence to support previous observational and modeling predictions that the best control of influenza comes from vaccinating the young.

Related News Articles:

[NIAID Press Release](#)

[Canadian vaccination study proves 'herd immunity'](#)

1976 Vaccine may protect against Novel H1N1

A mouse study published in [Influenza and Other Respiratory Viruses](#) found that earlier infection with a 1976 classical swine H1N1 virus protected against the current pandemic virus, suggesting modern day benefits for those who received the 1976 swine flu vaccine.

Household Transmission

A study in [Emerging Infectious Diseases](#) of household transmission of the novel H1N1 virus in San Antonio, Texas, during the first pandemic wave found that children were most affected and were more likely to transmit the virus to other children at rates that were generally lower than seasonal flu. The median time to illness onset between contacts was 4 days. The study found secondary attack rates of 4% for confirmed novel H1N1, compared with rates ranging from 13% to 30% for seasonal flu.

Risk factors for severe H1N1

In the recent *PLoS Currents* [French researchers](#) compared the frequency of preexisting health conditions in patients who had severe H1N1 flu with their frequency in the general French population to identify risk factors. They report that pregnancy, obesity, heart failure, and diabetes were risk factors for admission to an intensive care unit. But only obesity, heart failure, and diabetes were risk factors for death.

INFLUENZA & VACCINE UPDATES

CDC & ACHA Post Letter for Spring Break Travelers
In an effort to prevent a repeat of last year's post spring break flu spread, the American College Health Association (ACHA) and the CDC [advised students](#) with travel plans to get the pandemic H1N1 vaccine and take measures to protect themselves.

Latest Influenza News Articles

[Risk- and age-based recommendations for influenza vaccination](#)

[ECDC sees another pandemic wave as unlikely](#)

[Next generation of influenza vaccines may simplify storage, increase immunogenicity](#)

[Influenza B vaccine strain selection continually problematic](#)

FLU RESOURCES

CDC's Pandemic Influenza Pediatric Office Plan Template tool

This [tool](#) is a result of the Pediatric Responses to H1N1 Influenza Meeting that occurred September 9-10 in Atlanta. The template is a planning tool intended to assist pediatric medical offices that may experience an increase in patient visits or workload due to pandemic influenza. It is designed so that planning teams can customize the plan based on the particular needs of their offices. The suggestions and examples contained within the template were collected from a team of pediatric experts.

Upcoming Meetings & Events:

[2010 National Influenza Vaccine Summit](#) set for May 17-20, 2010 in Phoenix, Arizona

FLU WEBSITES

MDCH: www.michigan.gov/flu

CDC: www.cdc.gov/flu

HHS: www.flu.gov

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