



Michigan Department of Community Health, 201 Townsend Street, Lansing, MI 48913

NEW FLU SENTINELS ARE NEEDED

Did you ever wonder how the CDC and state and local public health know when influenza activity begins, peaks, and ends? Or how they identified the first cases of the 2009 influenza pandemic? They rely on the front-line medical providers, influenza sentinels, who volunteer to report office visits due to influenza-like illness weekly and collect clinical specimens from a subset of those patients for respiratory virus culture at the MDCH laboratory. In appreciation of their efforts, sentinels receive free laboratory testing for 11 specimens per site per season, weekly influenza reports and subscriptions to the CDC Morbidity and Mortality Weekly Report (MMWR) and Emerging Infectious Diseases Journal. Sentinel providers that report regularly throughout the flu season also receive free registrations for two staff to the MDCH Regional Immunization Conferences. The series of eight conferences are held in various cities in Michigan every October and November.

New sentinels are needed for this flu season. Medical providers of any specialty (e.g., family medicine, internal medicine, pediatrics, infectious disease) in nearly any setting (e.g., private practice, public health clinic, urgent care center, emergency room, university student health center) can be sentinels. Contact Cristi Carlton at 517-335-9104 or CarltonC2@michigan.gov for more information or to enroll now.

JOURNAL ARTICLES

The following commentary was published in the *American Journal of Public Health*: [Vaccinating Health Care Workers Against Influenza: The Ethical and Legal Rationale for a Mandate](#)

On January 12, 2011, *BMC Public Health* published: "[Influenza Vaccination Coverage against Seasonal and Pandemic Influenza and their Determinants in France: a Cross-sectional Study](#)"

On January 10, 2011, the *Journal of Infectious Diseases* published: [Effectiveness of Seasonal Vaccine in Preventing Confirmed Influenza-Associated Hospitalizations in Community Dwelling Older Adults](#)

INFLUENZA ACTIVITY UPDATE

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) launched a [new international webpage](#) that contains evaluation and capacity review tools for use by CDC's international partners and collaborating countries that participate in influenza surveillance, laboratory testing, and pandemic preparedness and response activities.

NEWS ARTICLES

[GPs warned over bacterial co-infection in flu](#)

[Researchers one step closer to universal flu vaccine](#)

[IDRI Receives DARPA Grant to Develop a Novel Vaccine to Combat Pandemic Flu](#)

[People Who Recovered From H1N1 Offer Clues to Better Vaccine](#)

[European study says H1N1 vaccine offered good protection](#)

FLU RESOURCES

Stay up-to-date with:

MDCH: www.michigan.gov/flu

CDC: www.cdc.gov/flu

HHS: www.flu.gov

ADDITIONAL IMMUNIZATION NEWS

[Junk Science Isn't a Victimless Crime](#): *Vaccines don't cause autism—and there was never any proof that they do. Too bad kids had to die while we figured that out.*

[Secrets of the MMR scare](#): *How the vaccine crisis was meant to make money.* In the second part of a special British Medical Journal (BMJ) series, Brian Deer reveals a secret scheme to raise huge sums from a campaign, launched at a London medical school, that claimed links between MMR, autism, and bowel disease.

[As The Facts Win Out, Vaccinations May, Too](#)

The January 2011 issues of [Needle Tips: Vol. 21\(1\)](#) and [Vaccinate Adults: Vol. 15 \(1\)](#) are now available. Topics include the recent ACIP votes on Tdap and MCV4 recommendations, *Ask the Experts*, and updated immunization educational pieces from IAC.

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