



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

FLU UPDATES

MID-SEASON FLU COVERAGE ESTIMATES

On December 5, 2011, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention posted national mid-season flu vaccination coverage estimates on their [interactive FluVaxView website](#). Here are some of the key findings:

- Although many adults (36.2%) and children (36.7%) had already been vaccinated against flu by the first week of Nov. 2011, many more still need to be protected.
- Overall vaccine uptake for the 2011-12 season is on track with the 2010-11 season.
- The most common place of vaccination among both children (63.3%) and adults (31.6%) was a doctor's office.
- When asked which groups are recommended to get the flu vaccine, only 50.8% of adults responded correctly that it was recommended for all people 6 months and older.

Key Findings on Health Care Personnel (HCP) Vaccination

- Flu vaccination among HCP by mid- Nov. 2011 is about 7% higher than mid- Nov. 2010—63.4% vs. 55.5%.
- Among unvaccinated HCP who did not intend to get the flu vaccine, the most common reason reported was not thinking that flu vaccines work.
- Coverage varied by age, ranging from 56.2% in HCP 18-29 years to 67.8% in HCP 60 years and older.
- Coverage varied by work setting, from 45.1% working in long-term care facilities to 77.8% in hospitals.
- Protecting themselves from flu was the most common reason reported by vaccinated HCP for receiving the flu vaccine. Protecting friends, family, and patients from influenza were other commonly reported reasons.

Key Findings on Pregnant Women and the Flu Shot

- By mid-Nov. 2011, coverage among pregnant women was about the same as mid-Nov. 2010- 43.2% vs. 44.0%.
- Women who reported a provider recommended and offered flu vaccination were 2x as likely to be vaccinated as women who received a recommendation but no offer.
- Concern about the safety risk to the baby if vaccinated was the most common reason reported for not receiving the influenza vaccination.

Recent Influenza Vaccination Trends

Trends from the 2007-08 flu season to the 2010-11 season using estimates from the Behavioral Risk Factor Surveillance System (BRFSS), National Immunization Survey (NIS), and the National 2009 H1N1 Flu Survey (NHFS) are outlined on a new CDC webpage.

Related News Articles

- [CDC sees improving flu vaccine uptake in kids, health workers](#)
- [Influenza vaccination rates up in children](#)

FLU VACCINE FOR PREGNANT WOMEN

On December 5, 2011, the Health and Human Services (HHS) [distributed a letter](#) on the importance of flu vaccines for pregnant women that was endorsed by nearly a dozen leading medical organizations including the American Academy of Family Physicians, American Academy of Pediatrics and the American College of Obstetricians and Gynecologists. Influenza is 5 times more likely to cause severe illness in pregnant women than in women who are not pregnant because of changes to the heart, lungs and immune system during pregnancy.

Related News Article

- [AAFP, Others Urge That Pregnant, Postpartum Women Be Immunized Against Flu](#)
- [Influenza Vaccine to Protect Mothers and Their Babies](#)

INFLUENZA ACTIVITY

Today's [MMWR](#) gives an update on flu activity in the US from Oct. 2-Nov. 26, 2011. Flu activity has been low and thus far, influenza A viruses have predominated; the majority are antigenically related to the 2011-12 flu vaccine strains for the Northern Hemisphere.

JOURNAL ARTICLES

- [Do People Taking Flu Vaccines Need Them the Most?](#)

NATIONAL INFLUENZA VACCINATION WEEK

The [current newsletter](#) from the Children's Hospital of Philadelphia (CHOP) discusses various aspects of influenza vaccine and disease.=

News Articles

- [ALA Supports Centers for Disease Control and Prevention's National Influenza Vaccination Week](#)
- [NFID Urges Healthcare Professionals and Community Leaders to Lead by Example](#)

ADDITIONAL FLU NEWS ARTICLES

- [Vaccine virus for novel H3N2 based on 2010 swine flu strain](#)
- [New clinical research consortium to tackle pandemic threats](#)

FLU RESOURCES

Stay up-to-date with:

MDCH: www.michigan.gov/flu

CDC: www.cdc.gov/flu

HHS: www.flu.gov

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