

FLUBYTES



February 24, 2011

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SEASONAL FLU

Socio-Economic Disparities

On February 17, 2011, [PLOS ONE published](#): "Socio-Economic Disparities in the Burden of Seasonal Influenza: The Effect of Social and Material Deprivation on Rates of Influenza Infection."

Predicting Flu Virus Evolution

An international team of researchers in [PLOS Genetics](#) reported on a potential way to predict the course of influenza virus evolution, by detecting pairs of mutations that tend to follow one another and improve the virus's "fitness," such as its resistance to the immune system or antiviral drugs. The researchers, led by a group at the University of Pennsylvania, studied "epistatic" mutations—ones that have interactive effects, such that the results of one mutation may depend on another one, according to their report.

Fever and Flu Vaccine

[Vaccine recently published the results](#) of a survey of parents of New Zealand infants and children 5 years of age and under who had a fever following administration of two inactivated influenza vaccines. Researchers found that Fluvax was associated with more and higher fevers than another flu vaccine.

Related CIDRAP article: [CDC explores pneumococcal vaccine link to kids' febrile seizures](#)

SEASONAL FLU NEWS ARTICLES

[Egg Allergy and the Influenza Vaccine -- A New Perspective](#)

[Flu season is normal - which means the case for getting vaccinated is strong](#)

[Health Canada Approves FLUAD®, New Influenza Vaccine for Seniors](#)

[Dynavax Reports New Phase 1a and Phase 1b Data for Universal Flu Vaccine Candidate](#)

PANDEMIC FLU

Health Care Personnel and Vaccination

Flu vaccination requirements are very effective in boosting uptake in health care personnel (HCP) according to a survey commissioned by the US Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC). The results of the online survey of 1,714 self-identified HCP from a variety of settings was published online February 18 in [Vaccine](#). Two-thirds of healthcare workers reported they were offered worksite vaccination, and about half received reminders. About 10% of the respondents were subject to a vaccination requirement, either with or without penalties for noncompliance. Healthcare workers in hospital settings were more likely to have flu vaccination requirements, which strongly influenced vaccine uptake, regardless of a penalty for noncompliance.

AVIAN INFLUENZA NEWS ARTICLES

Cambodia: [Bird flu deaths confirmed](#)

[Avian flu outbreaks in East Java, Riau](#)

FLU RESOURCES

Stay up-to-date with:

MDCH: www.michigan.gov/flu

CDC: www.cdc.gov/flu

HHS: www.flu.gov

ADDITIONAL IMMUNIZATION NEWS

U.S. Supreme Court Upholds Vaccine Injury Compensation Program

On February 22, 2011 the [U.S. Supreme Court ruled](#) in *Bruesewitz v. Wyeth, Inc.* to preserve the Vaccine Injury Compensation Program (VICP) that was established in the National Childhood Vaccine Injury Compensation Act of 1986. The Center for Infectious Disease Research & Policy (CIDRAP) [provides a summary](#) of the case in addition to various links related to the case.

Vaccine Safety

The Immunization Action Coalition (IAC) [recently posted](#) a 4-page handout for parents titled "Vaccine Safety Resources". This resource includes information on immunization and vaccine safety available from eight different organizations, and also includes titles of books to help parents who have vaccine concerns.

Tdap Vaccination

[ACIP Revises Language for Tdap Vaccination of Healthcare Workers](#)

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