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SEASONAL FLU

Mandatory Influenza Vaccination

The [following article was published](#) in the *Journal of Infection Control and Hospital Epidemiology*: "Championing Patient Safety through Mandatory Influenza Vaccination for All Healthcare Personnel and Affiliated Physicians." The researchers describe the results of a mandatory policy in a not-for-profit regional healthcare organization that includes 9 hospitals with approximately 25,000 HCP and approximately 4,000 affiliated physicians. The program was implemented in the 2009-10 influenza season; vaccination rates increased from 54% to 98.5%.

An additional study in [Vaccine](#) describes factors that influenced the success of a mandatory health care worker immunization policy. Vaccines included were measles, mumps, rubella, varicella, hepatitis B, diphtheria, tetanus and pertussis, but not influenza. Even though this study did not include influenza, the lessons learned are noteworthy. According to the researchers, "success in policy implementation was associated with effective communication, including support of clinical leaders, provision of free vaccine, access to occupational health services which included immunization, and appropriate data collection and reporting systems. Achieving high vaccine uptake was more challenging with existing employees and with smaller institutions.

Flu Prevention in Labor and Delivery

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) released [updated guidance](#) for preventing influenza in labor and delivery settings. The CDC no longer urges women who have suspected or confirmed flu infections to wear a mask during labor, if they can tolerate one. Instead, they say women who have flu-like illness during labor should remain on droplet precautions and that the health care team in the delivery room should adhere to standard and droplet precautions. The guidance urges healthcare providers to strongly encourage flu vaccination for family members and the baby's other caregivers.

Australian study finds trivalent flu vaccine effective against H1N1

[A study of patients seen by sentinel physicians](#) in Australia found the 2010 trivalent seasonal influenza vaccine was 79% effective against 2009 H1N1 flu. The study, a test-negative case-control approach, included 139 case-patients who tested positive for 2009 H1N1 by polymerase chain reaction and 180 controls, who had negative flu test results.

PANDEMIC FLU

Vaccine researchers from the National Institutes of Health (NIH) [recently published in article](#) in *Nature* which says influenza A/H2N2 viruses, the subtype that caused the flu pandemic of 1957-58, could return and trigger a pandemic in much the same way the H1N1 subtype did in 2009. H2N2 viruses have not circulated in humans for decades, with the result that people younger than 50 probably have little immunity to them; such viruses are still circulating in pigs and birds and have the potential to jump back into humans.

Related article: [Scientists say 1957 pandemic flu virus could return](#)

News Articles

[Pandemic review committee defends WHO response](#)

AVIAN INFLUENZA

Journal Articles

Risk Factors of H5N1 in China

Researchers in [PloS Pathogens](#) found that the risk of highly pathogenic H5N1 avian flu outbreaks in China is more geographically limited than previously thought, and that affected provinces tended to have lower antibody response to vaccination in domestic birds.

H5N1 China-Tibet Wild Bird Migration Route

[PloS One published a study](#) which describes a new migratory pathway that may serve as a transmission route for H5N1 avian flu between China and Tibet.

New Articles

WHO: [Avian influenza update](#)

[33,000 chickens culled after 13th case of bird flu in Miyazaki](#)

FLU RESOURCES

Stay up-to-date with:

MDCH: www.michigan.gov/flu

CDC: www.cdc.gov/flu

HHS: www.flu.gov

ADDITIONAL IMMUNIZATION NEWS

MDCH is pleased to announce the dates for the [2011 Fall Regional Immunization Conferences](#):

- Oct. 5 - E. Lansing
- Oct. 6 - Dearborn
- Oct. 18 - Gaylord
- Oct. 20 - Marquette
- Nov. 1 - Bay City
- Nov. 2 - Troy
- Nov. 9 - Kalamazoo
- Nov. 10 - Grand Rapids

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