



Michigan Department of Community Health, 201 Townsend Street, Lansing, Michigan 48909

SEASONAL FLU

Influenza Vaccination Rates

A recent [study in *Vaccine*](#) found higher seasonal flu vaccination rates in households with elderly and very young. The researchers conducted a pre-pandemic telephone survey in the Minneapolis-St Paul area with 800 participants. They found that 51% of households with children 1 year old or older had all children vaccinated, but 44% of households with children had none of the children vaccinated.

Vaccine Development

A [team of US researchers](#) reported in *PLoS One* the creation and testing in mice of a vaccine using a "centralized consensus antigen" designed to protect against a wide range of H1 influenza strains. The researchers, from the Mayo Clinic in Rochester, Minn., and St. Jude Children's Research Hospital in Memphis, used 20 hemagglutinin sequences representing the main branches of the H1 phylogenetic tree to create a centralized synthetic gene called HA1-con.

Influenza News Articles

[Influenza B viruses with lower antiviral sensitivity reported](#)

International News Articles

Canada: [\\$425.9M pandemic flu contract awarded](#)

Australia: [The Australian Medical Association has criticized a move by a national pharmacy chain to offer flu vaccinations to customers](#)

Japan: [Quake Evacuees Survive on Rice Balls, Bread. Seek to Avoid Contracting Flu](#)

Ireland: [Rise in sleep illness cases linked to swine-flu jab](#)

ANTIVIRALS

The [US government announced](#) the award of a \$231 million, 5-year contract to Biota Scientific Management Pty, Ltd., of Australia for advanced development of a single-dose, long-acting influenza drug in the neuraminidase inhibitor class.

News Articles on the National Immunization Conference

[Educating physicians on current influenza recommendations may increase coverage rates](#)

[Many parents unaware child's condition puts them at high risk for influenza complications](#)

[Text messages helped to reach vulnerable population for flu vaccine reminders](#)

PANDEMIC INFLUENZA

[WHO pandemic reviewers field comments on preview report](#)

AVIAN INFLUENZA

Emerging Infectious Diseases recently published: [Highly Pathogenic Avian Influenza Virus Infection in Feral Raccoons, Japan](#)

News Articles

[Egypt reports 3 H5N1 infections, 1 fatal](#)

[Australia helps Indonesia tackle bird flu](#)

FLU RESOURCES

Stay up-to-date with:

MDCH: www.michigan.gov/flu

CDC: www.cdc.gov/flu

HHS: www.flu.gov

ADDITIONAL IMMUNIZATION NEWS

Health and Human Services launched a new consumer-focused immunization website: www.vaccines.gov. The website gives consumers more information about vaccines and immunizations and helps them make informed decisions about preventive health.

FluBytes is distributed to MDCH flu partners for informational and communication purposes. Please feel free to distribute widely. Archived editions of FluBytes can be found [here](#). To access archived editions of MI FluFocus click [here](#).