



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

SEASONAL FLU

Community Vaccinators

Emerging Infectious Diseases recently posted a Letter to the Editor, "[Community Vaccinators in the Workplace](#)" which discusses offering flu vaccination in the workplace to increase vaccination coverage.

Influenza and Heart Attack Risk

A [study](#) in the *Journal of Infectious Diseases* analyzed 10 years' worth of flu, heart-attack, and weather data in the United Kingdom, a temperate country, and Hong Kong, a subtropical place, to look at the impact flu has on myocardial infarction (MI). The researchers conclude that up to 5.6% of MI-related deaths in Hong Kong and up to 3.4% of such deaths in England and Wales between 1999 and 2008 were attributable to flu. "We found a consistent association between seasonal influenza circulation and acute MI-associated hospitalizations and deaths in 2 different settings characterized by differing populations, climates, and patterns of health-seeking behavior," says the report.

Related Center for Infectious Disease Research & Policy (CIDRAP) article: [Study boosts evidence that flu raises heart-attack risk](#)

Minority Communities

On May 20, CDC [published an MMWR](#) titled "Surveillance of Health Status in Minority Communities- Racial and Ethnic Approaches to Community Health Across the U.S. (REACH U.S.) Risk Factor Survey, United States, 2009." The report includes information on influenza and pneumococcal vaccination rates among adults ages ≥ 65 years.

Intradermal Flu Vaccine

On May 25, 2011, CDC posted the following Q&A: [Intradermal Influenza \(Flu\) Vaccination](#)

News Articles

United Kingdom: [Young and middle aged 'hit hardest' by flu this winter](#)

[Strengthening our defenses against seasonal flu](#)

Australia: [Vaccine Side Effects Under the Microscope](#)

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](#).

PANDEMIC INFLUENZA

A study in the *Journal of Infectious Diseases* (JID) suggests that a seasonal influenza vaccine and an adjuvanted H5N1 vaccine can be combined or given at the same time without impairing their immunogenicity or safety. The researchers say that combining the two vaccines would be a useful way to prime the population for a potential H5N1 pandemic.

A study conducted by scientists at the Fogarty International Center at the [National Institutes of Health](#) (NIH) and [published](#) in *PLoS Medicine* found that eighteen-day periods of mandatory school closures and other social distancing measures were associated with a 29 to 37 percent reduction in influenza transmission rates in Mexico during the 2009 pandemic. The lead researcher, Gerardo Chowell, Ph.D., stated, "We believe this study has implications for improving preparedness plans in future pandemics,"

The *Journal of Infectious Diseases* also published: [Dose-Sparing H5N1 A/Indonesia/05/2005 Pre-pandemic Influenza Vaccine in Adults and Elderly Adults: A Phase III, Placebo-Controlled, Randomized Study](#)

SWINE INFLUENZA

In new research reported in *Nature*, scientists analyzed the genetic makeup of more than 650 influenza viruses isolated during the systematic surveillance of pigs slaughtered in Hong Kong between 1998 and 2010.

NIH article: [Evolution of Swine Flu Viruses Traced in Long-Term Study](#)

FLU RESOURCES

Stay up-to-date with:

MDCH: www.michigan.gov/flu

CDC: www.cdc.gov/flu

HHS: www.flu.gov or www.vaccines.gov

ADDITIONAL IMMUNIZATION INFORMATION

The May issue of the Michigan Immunization Timely Tips (MITT) has been published. It is posted at www.michigan.gov/immunize under the Provider Information section.

CDC recently published the following Morbidity and Mortality Weekly Report (MMWR): [Measles - United States, January--May 20, 2011](#)