



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

## **SEASONAL FLU**

### **Flu Shots in Pregnancy**

A retrospective cohort study [published in PLoS Medicine](#) on May 31, 2011 found that for births during widespread flu activity, the odds of prematurity were approximately 70% lower among the newborns of the vaccinated mothers compared to unvaccinated mothers. The researchers concluded that “there was an association between maternal immunization with the inactivated influenza vaccine during pregnancy and reduced likelihood of prematurity during local, regional, and widespread influenza activity periods.”

**Related article:** [Flu Shot May Lower Odds for Premie Delivery](#)

### **Meta-Analysis of Inactivated Flu Vaccines**

A [recent article](#) in *Vaccine* describes a meta-analysis of 33 studies published between 1978 and 2009 that compared at least two of the vaccine formulations. The researchers found that all four inactivated seasonal flu vaccine formulations in people who had been primed or vaccinated before suggested that all were safe, well tolerated, and equally effective.

### **Vaccination of Pharmacy Personnel**

The American Pharmacists Association (APhA) recently adopted a [policy](#) supporting mandatory annual influenza vaccination of pharmacy personnel.

### **Surveillance**

This week's Morbidity and Mortality Weekly Report (MMWR) [provides a summary](#) of the 2010-11 influenza season. The season was less severe than the previous season and the 2007-08 season but more severe than 2008-09. Hospitalization rates were higher for people age 65 and older compared with the previous pandemic season. So far 105 pediatric flu deaths have been reported, which is vastly lower than last year's pandemic season but somewhat higher than the two nonpandemic flu seasons before that. In the United States, influenza A (H3N2) remained the predominant virus throughout the season; however, 2009 influenza A (H1N1) and influenza B viruses also circulated, and the predominant virus varied by U.S. Department of Health and Human Service (HHS) region and week. Nearly all viruses that underwent further laboratory characterization were antigenically similar to the ones covered by the seasonal flu vaccine, which meant that the vaccine was a good match with the circulating strains.

### **BRFS: Flu Coverage by County**

The 2008-2010 Michigan Behavioral Risk Factor Survey (BRFS) Regional and Local Health Department Tables were released this week. [Starting on page 48](#) there is a county breakdown of flu and pneumonia vaccination coverage among adults 65 years and older. Overall Michigan flu vaccination coverage for this age group was 68.9%; the counties with highest coverage were Grand Traverse (82.2%), Muskegon (80.2%), and Washtenaw (78.6%).

### **News Articles**

[Australian Influenza Surveillance Report](#)

[CDC reports instance of probable human-to-human swine-origin flu spread](#)

[Cytokines suggested as factor in Australian flu-vaccine reactions](#)

[Tweaking flu vaccine may make it more effective](#)

## **PANDEMIC INFLUENZA**

This week [Vaccine published](#) “Socioeconomic status, demographics, beliefs and A(H1N1) vaccine uptake in the United States.” The study found that uptake was related to age, urban living, views that the vaccine is safe and seasonal vaccination.

## **AVIAN INFLUENZA**

[Egypt, Indonesia report H5N1 cases, fatality](#)

## **FLU RESOURCES**

**Stay up-to-date with:**

**MDCH:** [www.michigan.gov/flu](http://www.michigan.gov/flu)

**CDC:** [www.cdc.gov/flu](http://www.cdc.gov/flu)

**HHS:** [www.flu.gov](http://www.flu.gov) or [www.vaccines.gov](http://www.vaccines.gov)

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