



Michigan Department of Community Health, 201 Townsend Street, Lansing, MI 48913

## FLU UPDATES

### People at High Risk of Developing Flu-Related Complications

The January 6, 2012 Morbidity and Mortality Weekly Report (MMWR) [includes a report](#) that details an investigation into an acute outbreak of respiratory infection in a residential facility for children and young adults with severe neurological and neurodevelopmental conditions. Among the 130 residents, 76 (58%) developed respiratory illness, and 13 became severely ill; seven of those patients died. All 13 patients who became severely ill had neurological and neurodevelopmental conditions. Testing of some of the patients in the facility

indicated infection with influenza A virus. The investigation found that while 62% of the severely ill patients did receive antiviral treatment, in half of these cases treatment was outside the optimal 48 hour window. This report highlights the importance of having and following an influenza outbreak management strategy that includes:

- influenza vaccination of residents and staff before the outbreak occurs;
- influenza testing and surveillance among residents, staff and visitors;
- infection control measures, and;
- prompt and aggressive use of influenza antiviral drugs for both treatment and prevention.

CDC posted consolidated influenza outbreak management guidance for long-term care facilities [here](#).

Additional information on people at high risk for developing flu-related complications is available [here](#).

### Long Term Care HCP Letter

Last month CDC and the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services [posted a letter](#) addressed to Long Term Care (LTC) Medical Directors on the importance of flu vaccination for their staff.

On November 22, 2011, MDCH [distributed a similar](#) letter to LTC and nursing home facilities in Michigan.

## NEW ARTICLES

[Michigan health officials urge the public: Get your flu shot](#)

[Tamiflu-Resistant Influenza Virus Spreading in Australia](#)

[Work Begins on Possible Vaccine Against Novel Flu Bug](#)

## H5N1 AVIAN INFLUENZA

The World Health Organization (WHO) [posted a document](#) on concern that new H5N1 influenza research could undermine the 2011 Pandemic Influenza Preparedness Framework.

- [WHO confirms H5N1 deaths in Egypt and China](#)
- [Hong Kong Urges Bird-Flu Vigilance](#)

## JOURNAL ARTICLES

- [Comparison of Hospital Risk-Standardized Mortality Rates Calculated by Using In-Hospital and 30-Day Models: An Observational Study With Implications for Hospital Profiling](#)
- [Receipt of A\(H1N1\)pdm09 Vaccine by Prisons and Jails – United States, 2009-10 Influenza Season](#)
- [The determinants of 2009 pandemic A/H1N1 influenza vaccination: A systematic review](#)

## 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)

## MDCH'S MONTHLY FLU POSTERS

January: ["It's a New Beginning. Resolve Not to Get the Flu This Year. It's The Easiest Resolution You'll Ever Make."](#)

## 1st National Immunization Conference Online (NICO)

The 1st NICO, a virtual conference, will take place March 26-28, 2012. The conference will be entirely online so no travel is required for presenters or attendees. There is no cost to participate and pre-registration is not required, however attendance at live workshops is limited to the first 1000 people to log in at the start of each session. Workshops will include multiple presentations and will be one hour in length, and will be recorded. Recordings will be made available on the internet after the conclusion of the conference.

For more information go to the CDC's National Immunization Conference [section](#).

## MDCH NEWSLETTER

The latest editions of MDCH's monthly newsletter, [Michigan's Immunization Timely Tips \(MITT\)](#), include great flu-related materials in addition to important information on other vaccine preventable diseases.

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](#).