



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

FLU UPDATES

JOURNAL ARTICLES

Influenza A (H3N2) Variant Virus

[This week's Morbidity and Mortality Weekly Report](#) (MMWR) describes 12 human infections with influenza A (H3N2) variant viruses reported to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) with genes from avian, swine, and human viruses (i.e., A [H3N2]v) that acquired the M gene from influenza A (H1N1)pdm09 virus. The report evaluates the age-specific presence of serum cross-reactive antibody in U.S. populations vaccinated or not vaccinated with the 2010-11 seasonal trivalent influenza vaccine (TIV).

Also this week, [a new H3N2 variant virus](#) was reported to CDC. This case was in a child in Utah.

News Articles:

- [Study: Variant H3N2 risk greatest in kids under 10](#)
- [Novel H3N2 found in Weber County, Utah](#)

Health Care Personnel Vaccination

On March 14, 2012, MDCH participated in a webinar hosted by the Michigan Health and Hospital Association (MHA) on health care personnel (HCP) vaccination. [Slides from the webinar](#) include information on the history and importance of HCP vaccination; in addition, examples of mandatory influenza vaccination policy implementation at two hospitals in Michigan are presented.

A recent [study in Vaccine](#) examined predictors of 2010-2011 seasonal influenza vaccination among HCP. The study found that emotional benefits of vaccination include worrying less about getting influenza if vaccinated. Additionally, expected emotional benefits are strong predictors of subsequent vaccination.

Influenza Vaccine Effectiveness

A preliminary [European study](#) in *Eurosurveillance* suggests that this year's flu vaccine was 43% effective against H3N2 viruses, with antigenic drift cited as a possible contributor to the limited vaccine effectiveness (VE). The late start of the 2011/12 season and the low influenza incidence in some of the eight countries participating in the multicentre case-control season limited the sample size for this preliminary analysis.

A Canadian study found 60% overall seasonal flu VE in 2007-08 season. [The study in the Journal of Infectious Diseases](#) found that VE for seasonal H1N1 was 69% (95% CI, 44%-83%), that for H3N2 it was 57% (95% CI, 32%-73%), and that for influenza B it was 55% (95% CI, 32%-70%), for an overall VE of 60% (95% CI, 45%-71%).

Influenza and RSV Hospitalizations

A recent [study in Clinical Infectious Diseases](#) found that overall US hospitalization rates for influenza and RSV are similar; however, their age-specific burdens differ dramatically. Mean rates of influenza and RSV hospitalizations were 63.5 (95% CI, 37.5-237) and 55.3 (95% CI, 44.4-107) per 100,000 person-years, respectively. The highest hospitalization rates for influenza were among persons aged ≥65 years and those aged <1 year. For RSV, children aged <1 year had the highest hospitalization rate followed by those aged 1-4 years.

Co-infections with Severe Influenza

[Results of a new study](#) show that bacterial or viral co-infection complicated one in four patients admitted to the ICU with severe influenza A infection.

Influenza News Articles

- [Intranasal Vaccine With Four Weakened Strains of Flu Works Better Than Three](#)
- [India: No Cause for panic about Pandemic Influenza A H1N1](#)
- [H1N1 cases in India sparking media hype](#)

AVIAN INFLUENZA

- [Avian influenza - situation in Egypt](#)
- [Export controls still blocking publication of Fouchier's H5N1 study](#)

FLU RESOURCES

Stay up-to-date with:

MDCH: www.michigan.gov/flu

CDC: www.cdc.gov/flu

HHS: www.flu.gov

ADDITIONAL IMMUNIZATION NEWS

[California, Vermont consider tougher vaccine-exemption rules](#)

[U.S. to Offer Anthrax Vaccine to First Responders on Trial Basis](#)

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