



Michigan Department of Community Health, 201 Townsend Street, Lansing, MI 48933

MICHIGAN'S IMMUNIZATION CHAMPION



This week, Zachary Yaksich of West Bloomfield received the Michigan CDC [Childhood Immunization Champion award](#). This award honors individuals who are doing an exemplary job to promote or foster childhood immunizations in their communities. Mr. Yaksich goes above and beyond all of the nomination criteria for an immunization champion and we appreciate all of the work that he does to raise awareness on influenza vaccination. Zack is the founder of Alana's Foundation, which was established to share the personal tragedy of losing his daughter, Alana, due to influenza related complications in 2003. Zack spoke at the last FAB meeting and reminded all of us on the importance and benefits of immunization. For more information, please see the [MDCH press release](#) which was distributed yesterday, April 26. For information on Alana's Foundation visit, www.alanasfoundation.org.

JOURNALS ARTICLES

Effect of Text Messaging on Influenza Vaccination

According to recent [article in JAMA](#), using a text messaging intervention system to educate and remind parents about influenza vaccination increased the rate of child and adolescent vaccinations in a low-income urban population. However, the overall influenza vaccination rate remained low.

Accompanying Editorial: [A New Tool for Improving Preventive Services](#)

Related news articles:

[Text Messaging Program May Increase Flu Vaccination Rate](#)

[Flu Vaccine Rates Improved Via Texting For Low Income Children](#)

Severe Coinfections

This week's [Morbidity and Mortality Weekly Report](#) (MMWR) describes a Maryland cluster of severe coinfections with seasonal influenza A (H3N2) virus and staphylococcus aureus which resulted in three deaths.

News Articles

[Study: Mexico's H1N1 mortality rose as antiviral use dropped](#)

[Flu drug maker Biota, US company to merge](#)

[Setting up a platform for plant-based influenza virus vaccine production in South Africa](#)

Pregnant Women and Flu Vaccination

Pregnant women were listed as the most important risk group for seasonal influenza vaccination by The World Health Organization's (WHO's) [Strategic Advisory Group of Experts](#) (SAGE). The panel also listed healthcare workers, children 6 to 59 months old, the elderly, and those with high-risk conditions as other targeted populations.

AVIAN INFLUENZA

[Canada: Avian Influenza Viruses Added to Reportable Diseases List](#)

H5N1 Study Controversy

[NIH endorses recommendation to publish H5N1 studies](#)

[Senate committee seeks answers in H5N1 study debate](#)

FLU RESOURCES

Stay up-to-date with:

MDCH: www.michigan.gov/flu

CDC: www.cdc.gov/flu

HHS: www.flu.gov

This week [CDC posted a Podcast](#) by Dr. Aaron Storms, an Epidemic Intelligence Service (EIS) officer at CDC, discussing his paper about oseltamivir-resistant H1N1flu.

The National Influenza Vaccination Disparities Partnership posted their [April newsletter](#) this week.

Resources posted this week during National Infant Immunization Week - some are influenza-specific, some include general immunization resources:

- [Vaccine Resources from CDC Partners](#)
- [Provider Resources for Vaccine Conversations with Parents](#)
- [Parenting: It's National Infant Immunization Week](#)

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