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FLU UPDATES

JOURNAL ARTICLES

The April edition of the [Bulletin of the World Health Organization](#) is dedicated to wide range of news, commentary, and research articles on influenza. A group of experts identified more than 4,000 publications from 2010 and 2011 related to five major flu-research "streams" identified by the World Health Organization (WHO). A summary of the bulletin is available [here](#).

Cell-based Vaccines

Two new studies in *Vaccine* demonstrate the safety and immunogenicity of cell-based influenza vaccines. In the first [study the researchers](#) concluded, "A whole-virus H1N1 A/California/07/2009 vaccine was safe and well tolerated and a single dose induced substantial immune responses similar to seasonal influenza vaccines." [Researchers in the second study](#) found, "modern cell culture techniques is highly advantageous in terms of the quantity, quality, and rapidity of antigen production; these benefits, in combination with the use of MF59, maximize manufacturing capacity and global vaccine supply."

Safety Surveillance for High-dose Influenza Vaccine

A safety study of the high-dose influenza vaccine, licensed in December 2009, was recently published in [Clinical Infectious Diseases](#). The study reviewed reports to the Vaccine Adverse Event Reporting System (VAERS) among adults age 65 years and older who received the high-dose trivalent influenza vaccine (or TIV-HD) or standard dose trivalent influenza vaccine (TIV). The authors reported no new serious vaccine safety concerns following TIV-HD. More information on influenza vaccine safety is available [here](#).

Quadrivalent Vaccine

MedImmune's quadrivalent live attenuated influenza vaccine was comparable in immunogenicity and safety to trivalent live attenuated vaccines in a recent trial in children, according to a study in [The Pediatric Infectious Disease Journal](#). News Article: [Children: Better Protection from Influenza With Improved Vaccine](#)

Influenza Outbreaks

This [weeks MMWR describes influenza](#) outbreaks at two correctional facilities in Maine. The report highlights the importance of collaboration between public health and correctional officials and recommends that correctional facilities should strongly consider implementing the following measures during each flu season: 1) offering flu vaccination to all inmates and staff members, 2) conducting education on respiratory etiquette, and 3) making documentation regarding the vaccination status of inmates and staff members accessible.

PANDEMIC PREPAREDNESS

This week, leaders from Canada, Mexico, and the United States released a new "[North American Plan for Animal and Pandemic Influenza](#)" which extends the pandemic planning framework to a broad range of sectors, including health, agriculture, security, and foreign affairs. HHS Press Release: [North American countries join forces to prepare for pandemics](#)

Also this week, the European Centre for Disease Prevention and Control (ECDC) and the WHO [published findings](#) from a series of four pandemic preparedness workshops that focused on lessons learned during the 2009 H1N1 pandemic.

Journal article

A recent article, "[Biosecurity and Bioterrorism: Biodefense Strategy, Practice, and Science](#)" highlights enhanced global surveillance that focuses on factors driving infectious disease emergence and new technological capabilities in modeling, diagnostics, and pathogen identification, and communications, such as using the increasing global coverage of cell phones for public health surveillance.

AVIAN INFLUENZA

- [H5N1 mutations, other details unveiled at H5N1 meeting](#)
- [Major players weigh implications of NSABB H5N1 reversal](#)
- [Why did a US advisory board reverse its stance on publishing mutant flu papers?](#)
- [Bird flu leaves one child dead](#)

Influenza News Articles

- [US flu activity shows signs of ebbing](#)
- [Flu cause of Fahan, Donegal, nursing home deaths](#)

FLU RESOURCES

Stay up-to-date with:
MDCH: www.michigan.gov/flu
CDC: www.cdc.gov/flu
HHS: www.flu.gov

ADDITIONAL IMMUNIZATION NEWS

The [March 2012 issue](#) of the Michigan Immunization Timely Tips (MITT) was recently published.

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