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## INFLUENZA VACCINE EFFECTIVENESS AND ACTIVITY; 2012-13 SEASON

Today the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) published two Morbidity and Mortality Weekly Reports (MMWR) on the 2012-13 influenza season. The first, "[Interim Adjusted Estimates of Seasonal Influenza Vaccine Effectiveness—United States, February 2013](#)" analyzed data from 2,697 children and adults enrolled through the U.S. Influenza Vaccine Effectiveness (Flu VE) Network during December 3, 2012-January 19, 2013. Overall, the VE estimate was 56% (95% confidence interval [CI]: 47% to 63%), after adjustment for age, study site, race/ethnicity, self-rated health, and days from illness onset to enrollment. VE was estimated as 47% against influenza A (H3N2) virus infections and 67% against B virus infections. When stratified by age group, the point estimates for VE against influenza A (H3N2) and B infections were largely consistent across age groups, with the exception that lower VE against influenza A (H3N2) was observed among adults  $\geq 65$  years.

The second report contains [a summary of influenza activity](#) in the United States for September 30, 2012 - February 9, 2013. Influenza viruses have been a significant cause of respiratory illness this flu season. This season, the percentage of outpatient visits to doctors for influenza-like illness equaled or exceeded the national baseline of 2.2% for 12 consecutive weeks. The vast majority of flu viruses characterized so far this flu season have been like the viruses in the 2012-2013 Northern Hemisphere influenza vaccine.

For additional details, please see the Key Points included with this edition of FluBytes.

## INFLUENZA JOURNAL ARTICLES

### SEASONALITY OF FLU AND RSV

Many tropical regions worldwide, commonly thought to experience influenza and respiratory syncytial virus (RSV) year-round, actually have seasonal variations in the diseases similar to those in temperate climates, [according to a new study](#). The meta-analysis found the expected peaks during winter months for both flu and RSV in temperate areas, with some showing peaks in both winter and summer for flu and Northern Europe showing biennial cycles for RSV.

A study in the [American Journal of Respiratory and Critical Care Medicine](#) found that Chinese hospital workers who wore N95 respirators all the time had significantly lower rates of clinical respiratory illnesses (CRIs) than workers who wore surgical masks or used N95s only for high-risk procedures.

News Article: [Study: Full-time N95 use offers best respiratory protection](#)

## INFLUENZA NEWS ARTICLES ON VACCINE EFFECTIVENESS

- [Flu shot did poor job against worst bug in seniors](#)
- [Flu vaccine worked in just over half of Americans who got it](#)
- [For seniors, this winter's flu shot didn't protect well against toughest bug, new study says](#)
- [Improved Flu Vaccine Needed for Elderly as Benefit Drops](#)

## INFLUENZA-RELATED NEWS ARTICLES

### Current Flu Season

- [Influenza in Kids: Should You Test?](#)
- [CDC: Flu activity continues to slow](#)
- [Flu trending downward, but still hitting elderly hard](#)
- [Meriden Department of Health & Human Services to Host Free Flublok Influenza Vaccine Clinic Thursday February 21th, 2013](#)
- [7 Reasons to Fight the Flu From Your Bed, Not Your Cubicle](#)

## FLU VACCINES REQUIRED TO BE ENTERED INTO MCIR

As a reminder, providers are required to report flu immunizations administered to every child less than 20 years old within 72 hours of administration into the [Michigan Care Improvement Registry \(MCIR\)](#). Please ensure you are entering your doses for adults as well!

## WEBSITES

[www.michigan.gov/flu](http://www.michigan.gov/flu)  
[www.cdc.gov/flu](http://www.cdc.gov/flu)  
[www.flu.gov](http://www.flu.gov)  
<http://vaccine.healthmap.org/>

## NATIONAL INFLUENZA VACCINE SUMMIT (NIVS) IMMUNIZATION EXCELLENCE AWARDS

NIVS is soliciting candidates for the [2013 NIVS Immunization Excellence Awards](#). The 2013 awards recognize individuals and organizations that have made extraordinary contributions towards improved adult, and/or childhood influenza vaccination rates within their communities during the 2012-2013 influenza season.

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