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SUMMARY OF U.S. 2012-13 INFLUENZA SEASON

The third and final influenza activity summary for the 2012-13 season has been published in *Morbidity and Mortality Weekly Report*. The full report can be found [here](#). The season was moderately severe, with a higher percentage of outpatient visits for influenza-like illness, higher rates of hospitalization, and more reported deaths attributed to pneumonia and influenza compared with recent years.

OFFICE OF PUBLIC HEALTH PREPAREDNESS NEWSLETTER

Michigan's Office of Public Health Preparedness has posted the [June](#) issue of their newsletter, *The Guardian of Public Health*. This issue contains information on avian influenza A (H7N9), an article on pandemic influenza viruses, and new guidance from the World Health Organization on pandemic influenza risk management.

AVIAN INFLUENZA A (H7N9)

No new human infections with avian influenza A (H7N9) have been reported since the end of May. To date, nearly 30% of cases have died. At this time, sustained human-to-human transmission has not been demonstrated. Federal CDC released an official [update](#) on June 7.

Related Articles:

- CIDRAP: [WHO, CDC issue new H7N9 assessments, guidance](#)
- CIDRAP: [Preclinical results for Inovio H7N9 vaccine](#)
- *The Lancet*: [Human co-infection with H7N9 and H3N2](#)
 - Chinese researchers reported a case of co-infection in a 15-year-old male sick in late April. He recovered May 2. Dual infections are a potential source of reassortment between human and avian viral strains, which could raise human-to-human transmission risk.
- CIDRAP: [Federal officials weigh H7N9 vaccine options](#)
- [Receptor binding of H7N9 hemagglutinin](#)
 - A single residue change in the receptor binding site would increase binding to human receptors.

The following updated on H7N9 are available:

- [U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention](#) (CDC)
 - [Selected H7N9 Publications and Resources](#)
- [World Health Organization](#) (WHO)
- [Chinese Center for Disease Control & Prevention](#)
- [Center for Infectious Disease Research & Policy](#)

INFLUENZA-RELATED JOURNAL ARTICLES

- *Eurosurveillance* published a report on [critical care](#) comparing the pandemic 2009-10 season in England with the 2010-11 flu season and noted a bigger impact on critical care services seen across England in 2010-11.
- A study in *Clinical Infectious Diseases* showed that flu vaccination was not associated with [non-influenza](#) respiratory viruses in seasonal studies of flu vaccine effectiveness.
- Researchers used a mathematical model to determine optimal flu vaccine allocation and demonstrated that strategies targeting schoolchildren (5-17 yrs) and young adults (18-44 yrs) are robust in the face of [uncertainty](#) related to influenza epidemiology.
- Researchers found that having policies that provide employees with 2 [paid sick days](#) for flu reduced workplace infections by approximately 40%.

H5N1 AVIAN INFLUENZA

Journal and news articles

- *BioMed Central Public Health*: [Human H5N1 influenza infections in Cambodia 2005--2011: case series and cost-of-illness](#)
- *Cell*: [Structural determinants for naturally evolving H5N1 hemagglutinin to switch its receptor specificity](#)
- CIDRAP: [H5N1 death in Egypt raises global total to 630 cases, 375 deaths](#)

INFLUENZA-RELATED NEWS ARTICLES

- [Mandatory vaccination of healthcare workers a success](#)
- [Quadrivalent flu vaccine approved for infants, adults](#)
- [Saliva proteins may protect older people from influenza](#)
- [House passes bill aimed at ensuring flu vaccine availability](#)
- [Chicken in Arkansas infected with bird flu, poultry quarantined](#)
- [Bird flu outbreak in South Africa spreads to more ostrich farms](#)

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