



DECEMBER 14, 2016

Challenge Update

Challenge Winners

Thank you to all of our schools that participated in the 2016-17 Flu Vaccination Challenge!

2016-17 College Flu Vaccination Challenge Winners are:

Small School: **Calvin College**

Medium School: **Wayne State University**

Large School: **University of Michigan**

It was a tight race between Hope College and Calvin College throughout the entire challenge. Some weeks there was less than a one percent difference in their coverage levels. Wayne State University led the medium school division, but Oakland University was closing the gap towards the end of the challenge. And finally, the University of Michigan pulled off the win for the first year! A well-timed email boosted their numbers and they never looked back.

We want to thank everyone again for their efforts in vaccinating Michigan college students! Please don't forget to continue vaccinating students against the flu when they return in January, and through the rest of the flu season.

Late Season Effort Awards

Though the overall winners have already been determined, there are still other awards your school can win!

Late Season Effort Awards: This award goes to the institution (1 per size category) that has the highest coverage using number of doses in MCIR and undergraduate population.

MCIR Award: This award goes to the school that enters the most doses into MCIR. There is only one winner of this award across all size categories (July 1, 2016 – March 31, 2017).

Most Improved Award: This award goes to the school that has the biggest percentage increase in the number of doses entered into MCIR from the 2015-16 challenge to the 2016-17 challenge.

January 25 Webinar

Save-the-date for the next scheduled bi-monthly webinar on Wednesday, January 25 2017 from 12:00-1:00pm. Topics to be discussed are winners of the challenge, planning for presentations, and discussing the 2017-18 challenge. Call in information: <http://breeze.mdch.train.org/immunize>

Dial-in: 1-877-336-1828

Passcode: 2499503

2016-17 Flu Vaccination Challenge

Improving Flu Vaccination Rates at Michigan Colleges and Universities

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Flu Updates - CDC

In observance of National Influenza Vaccination Week, the CDC released a couple of important flu updates:

- 2016-17 Early season flu vaccination coverage estimates
- 2015-16 Flu burden and burden of disease averted by flu vaccination estimates
- Updated estimates of annual flu hospitalizations and deaths caused by flu

2016-17 Early Season Flu Vaccination Coverage Estimates

Based on data from the Behavioral Risk Factor Surveillance System and the National Health Interview Survey, CDC released mid-season estimates for flu vaccination coverage in the U.S. It is estimated that 39.8% of all persons 6 months of age and older have received their flu vaccine so far this season.

Among children aged 6 months through 17 years, 37.3% have received their flu vaccine.

- Children 6 months-4 years: 45.0%
- Children 5-12 years: 39.0%
- Children 13-17 years: 28.7%

Among adults aged 18 years and older, 40.6% have received their flu vaccine.

- Adults 18-49 years: 34.3%
- Adults 50-64 years: 41.7%
- Adults 65 years and older: 56.6%

Among healthcare personnel, 68.5% reported receiving their flu vaccine.

- Coverage was highest among HCP working in hospitals (by setting): 80.8%
- Coverage was lowest among long-term care personnel (by setting): 55.1%

Among pregnant women, 46.6% of women reported receiving their flu vaccine.

- 65.7% of pregnant women reported receiving their flu vaccine after a provider recommendation and offer of flu vaccine
- 29.8% of pregnant women reported receiving their flu vaccine after a provider recommendation with no offer
- 11.1% of pregnant reported receiving their flu vaccine after no provider recommendation or offer

More information on 2016-17 early season flu vaccination coverage estimates is available at:

<https://www.cdc.gov/flu/fluview/>.

2015-16 Flu Burden and Burden of Disease Averted by Flu Vaccination

For the 2015-16 season, CDC estimates that influenza vaccination prevented approximately 5.1 million influenza illnesses, 2.5 million influenza-associated medical visits, and 71,000 influenza-associated hospitalizations.

If 5% more of the entire U.S. population would have been vaccinated, CDC estimates that an additional 500,000 influenza illnesses and 6,000 hospitalizations could have been prevented.

Further, if the U.S. would have reached the Healthy People 2020 goal of 70% vaccination coverage for all age groups, another 2.4 million influenza illnesses and 19,000 influenza-associated hospitalizations could have been prevented.

Looking specifically at adults aged 65 years and older, while they only make up 15% of the population, they made up 50% of influenza-associated hospitalizations during the 2015-16 season.

This report shows the benefit of vaccination programs, and highlights areas where vaccine uptake could have even greater benefits to the public's health. Your efforts to vaccinate your students is effective in preventing influenza!

Additional information can be found at:

<https://www.cdc.gov/flu/about/disease/2015-16.htm>.

Estimates of Annual Flu Hospitalizations and Deaths

The CDC has updated their estimates on the number of flu hospitalizations and deaths in the U.S. with data collected since 2010. CDC estimates that flu-related hospitalizations range from 140,000 to 710,000 per year. The previous estimate from CDC was based on data from 1979 to 2001, with an estimate of 200,000 hospitalizations a year. Influenza-associated deaths range from 12,000 to 56,000 per year, based on data since 2010. The previous estimate from CDC was 3,000 to 49,000, also based on data from 1979 to 2001.

Current Flu Activity in the US

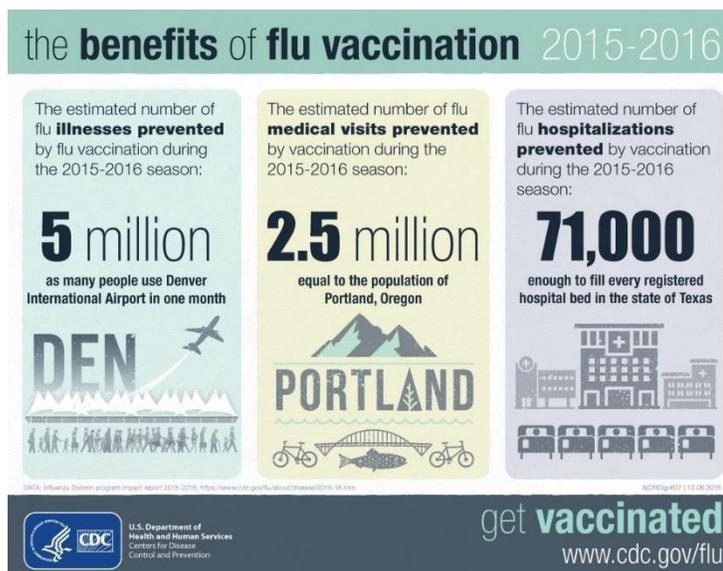
Currently, we are seeing low flu activity in the United States. So far, H3N2 viruses have been predominant. H3N2 seasons are often more severe, and have a greater impact among young children and adults aged 65 years and older. All viruses that have been circulating to date are similar to the viruses in the 2016-17 flu vaccine.

In Michigan, the state laboratory has confirmed 32 positive influenza cases: 29 were characterized as Influenza A/H3, and 3 were characterized as Influenza B.

Nationally, influenza activity has peaked between December and February about 75% of the time in the past 30 years, but flu activity can occur as late as May so it is important to continue vaccinating throughout the flu season.

The infographic below is available for use at:

<https://www.cdc.gov/flu/spotlights/flu-vaccine-protected-infographic.htm>.





Update from Alana's Foundation

CONGRATULATIONS to this year's Challenge winners! All of the schools worked very hard and were very competitive right up until the end. It was a GREAT effort by all participants.

Even though the Challenge has ended, Alana's Foundation is here to support your continuing flu vaccination efforts. We are *always* available to:

- Strategize on ways to make this campaign a success at your school and offer lessons learned from previous experiences.
- Travel to health fairs and other on-campus events, as schedules permit. It is often helpful to have a representative attend a vaccination event to tell the story first hand why it is important to get an annual flu shot.

Send an email with any questions or requests to: info@alanasfoundation.org.

Vaccine Assistance Grants Still Available - Even after the Challenge

All participating Challenge schools are eligible to submit a Vaccine Assistance Grant from Alana's Foundation any time during the flu season. Requests are reviewed and usually processed within 24-48 hours of receipt. This season, over \$11,200 has been awarded to six schools who have applied for and received funding.

Remember, flu vaccine purchased with grant funds must be used for uninsured/underinsured students at no cost and no administration fee can be assessed. All press, promotions, and signage must acknowledge and recognize that vaccines were purchased with a grant provided from Alana's Foundation. To submit a grant application, visit the [grant request page](#) or contact info@alanasfoundation.org. (NOTE: Be sure to complete the College/University application).

Congratulations again to all participating schools. We are so proud to be part of this initiative making a difference with our collective efforts to protect our students and campuses healthy and flu free. (Visit our website for current [Flu Challenge](#) information and award photos.

Zachary Yaksich
Alana's Dad
Director, Alana's Foundation

Take the Shot PSA

The Kent County Health Department developed a PSA to help educate on the importance of the flu vaccine. Kent County partnered with the Grand Rapids Griffins hockey team to create the Take the Shot PSA. Feel free to share: https://youtu.be/KsCIYzU2_D4



Vaccine Assistance Grants Still Available - Even after the Challenge



The traveling Alana's Foundation Memorial trophies will be handed out at one of our 2017 Flu Advisory Board Meetings to Calvin College, Wayne State University, and the University of Michigan!