



Eye on Influenza

November 9, 2012
Volume 9, Issue 1

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Now is the time to vaccinate! Flu activity is expected to increase in the coming weeks to months.



Influenza Update: Orange County expects its first laboratory-confirmed, locally-acquired case of influenza at any time. Low levels of influenza are currently circulating in California. During Week 44 (ending Nov 3) influenza activity was sporadic in the District of Columbia and 33 states, including California, local in eight states, and regional in one state.

Influenza Vaccination Highlights: 2012-13 Season

- Annual flu vaccination of all persons aged ≥ 6 months continues to be recommended.
- Children aged 6 months through 8 years require 2 doses of influenza vaccine (administered a minimum of 4 weeks apart) during their first season of vaccination to optimize immune response. See the 8/17/2012 *MMWR* below for more detailed recommendations and an updated dosing algorithm.
- Persons with a history of egg allergy who have experienced only hives after exposure to egg should receive influenza vaccine, provided additional safety measures are followed (see *MMWR* below).

For more guidance on the use of influenza vaccines, including vaccine products and dosing, see “Prevention and Control of Influenza with Vaccines: Recommendations of the Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices (ACIP) – United States, 2012-13 Influenza Season” available in the 8/17/12 *MMWR* at www.cdc.gov/mmwr. For updated vaccine safety information, visit www.cdc.gov/flu/professionals/vaccination/vaccine_safety.htm.

Other Influenza News:

- **Influenza Rapid Test Malfunction:** CDC is aware of five laboratories in three different states that have experienced false influenza B positive results with the Quidel Sofia Influenza A&B test. Quidel is aware of the problem and is working to resolve the issue. If you identify and confirm false positive results with this test or with any other test, please contact the company with the lot number(s) and expiration dates of the product.
- **A recent evaluation of 11 commercially available rapid influenza diagnostic tests (RIDTs)** found a narrow range of virus concentrations that can be detected by the majority of RIDTs. Clinicians should follow best practices for specimen collection and timing to improve test utility and use caution when interpreting results; see 11/2/2012 *MMWR* issue at www.cdc.gov/mmwr.
- **Influenza Vaccination Coverage among Healthcare Personnel (HCP):** Survey findings highlight the need for widespread implementation of comprehensive healthcare personnel (HCP) influenza vaccination strategies, particularly among those who are not physicians or nurses and who work in long-term care facilities (LTCFs). Overall, 66.9% of HCP reported having had an influenza vaccination for the 2011-2012 season. Coverage was 85.6% among physicians, 77.9% among nurses, and 62.8% among all other HCP. Vaccination rates were highest among HCP working in hospitals (76.9%) and lowest among those working in LTCFs (52.4%). For more information, see 9/28/12 *MMWR* issue at www.cdc.gov/mmwr.
- **Influenza Vaccination Coverage among Pregnant Women:** Pregnant women who were offered flu vaccination in addition to a healthcare provider recommendation reported higher vaccination coverage (73.6%) than women who received only a recommendation (47.9%). Overall, 47.0% reported that they had received influenza vaccination during the 2011-2012 season. Influenza vaccination is recommended for all women who are or will be pregnant during the influenza season, regardless of trimester. See 9/28/12 *MMWR* issue at www.cdc.gov/mmwr.

If you have any comments about this flyer, contact Sandra Okubo, MPH or Michele Cheung, MD at (714) 834-8180. To receive this newsletter by email, please contact us at epi@ochca.com.

