



111 North County Farm Road
Wheaton, IL 60187
(630) 682-7400
www.dupagehealth.org

Linda Kurzawa
President, Board of Health

Maureen McHugh
Executive Director

Rashmi Chugh, MD, MPH
Medical Officer

Contact Information

Communicable Disease
(630) 682-7400, ext. 7553

Environmental Health
(630) 682-7400, ext. 7046

Immunizations
(630) 682-7400

Sexually Transmitted Diseases
(630) 682-7400, ext. 7575

HIV/AIDS
(630) 682-7400, ext. 7310

Tuberculosis
(630) 682-7522

School Health
(630) 682-7400, ext. 7300

Travel Clinic
(630) 682-7400

Animal Care & Control
(630) 407-2800

Please contact
Peggy Iverson, BS at
(630) 682-7400, ext. 7534 or
piverson@dupagehealth.org
to send suggestions
or to be added to the
distribution list.

The purpose of this two-page surveillance update is to promote the control and prevention of **communicable disease (CD)** by providing clinically relevant information and resources to healthcare professionals in DuPage County.

Under the Microscope Influenza

For information on locations offering influenza vaccination, please call the DuPage County Health Department at (630) 682-7400.

Influenza vaccination is the most effective method for preventing influenza virus infection and its potentially severe complications. In addition to the priority groups of persons who are either at high risk for influenza infection or complications, or are close contacts of (e.g., live with or care for) persons at high risk for influenza-related complications, **vaccination is recommended for persons 6 months of age or older who wish to reduce the likelihood of becoming ill with influenza or transmitting influenza to others should they become infected.**¹

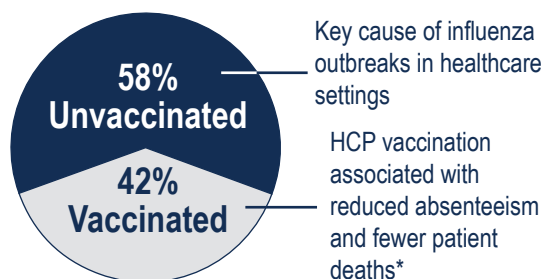
Beginning with the 2008-09 influenza season, **CDC recommends that all children aged 6 months up to their 19th birthday should be vaccinated against influenza annually.**² Children typically have the **highest attack rates** during community outbreaks of influenza and serve as a **major source of transmission** within communities. This expanded recommendation for routine vaccination of children and adolescents is based on 1) accumulated evidence that **influenza vaccine is effective and safe** for school-aged children, 2) increased evidence that **influenza has substantial adverse impacts** among school-aged children and their contacts (e.g., school absenteeism, increased antibiotic use, medical care visits, and parental work loss), and 3) an expectation that a simplified age-based influenza vaccine recommendation for all school-aged children and adolescents will **improve vaccine coverage levels** among the approximately 50% of school-aged children who already had a risk- or contact-based indication for annual influenza vaccination.²

Pneumococcal Vaccine

The time of administration of influenza vaccine should also be used as an **opportunity to identify and vaccinate patients recommended to receive pneumococcal vaccine** (e.g., children, persons who are immunocompromised, asplenic, or with chronic illness, adults 65 years of age or older).

Recommendations are available at www.cdc.gov/vaccines/vpd-vac/pneumo/default.htm.

Influenza Vaccination Rate in Healthcare Personnel (HCP) - United States, 2006



* Source: CDC Prevention and control of influenza: Recommendations of the Advisory Committee on Inmunization Practices (ACIP). *MMWR*. 2007; 56(RR-6):1-54.

All healthcare personnel (HCP) should also be vaccinated against influenza annually, and should also follow **handwashing, respiratory hygiene, and other infection control** recommendations to prevent influenza transmission.³

Unimmunized healthcare workers put patients at risk.⁴ Although HCP influenza vaccination rates are extremely low, with moderate effort, organized campaigns by healthcare institutions can attain higher levels of vaccination among this population, by working to ensure influenza vaccine is available and offered to every healthcare worker annually. **Not only will they protect their vulnerable patients, but they will also protect themselves and their families from the serious morbidity and mortality associated with influenza, and reduce disease burden and healthcare costs.**^{3,4}

In addition to reducing transmission of influenza in healthcare settings, vaccination of HCP also reduces staff illness and absenteeism.³ **Influenza vaccination levels among HCP should be regularly measured and reported**, with feedback of ward-, unit-, and specialty-specific rates provided to staff and administration.³

Who meets "healthcare personnel" (HCP) criteria? The term HCP refers to **all paid and unpaid persons working in healthcare settings who have the potential for exposure to infectious materials**, including body substances, contaminated medical supplies and equipment, contaminated environmental surfaces, or contaminated air.³ These recommendations apply to HCP in acute care hospitals, physician's offices, urgent care centers, outpatient clinics, nursing homes, skilled nursing facilities, and to persons who provide home healthcare and emergency medical services.³

References:

1. www.cdc.gov/flu/professionals/vaccination/vax-summary.htm
2. www.cdc.gov/flu/professionals/acip/specifcipopulations.htm

3. www.cdc.gov/mmwr/PDF/rr/rr5502.pdf
4. www.nfid.org/influenza/professionals_workersflu.html

