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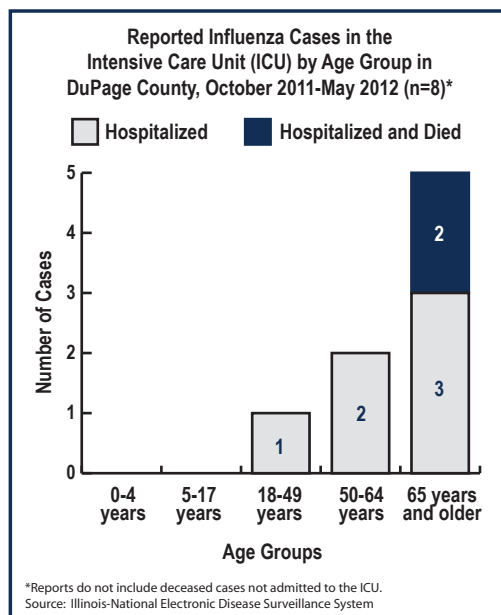
The purpose of this two-page surveillance update is to promote the control and prevention of **communicable disease (CD)** by providing clinically relevant information and resources to healthcare professionals in DuPage County.



Under the Microscope Influenza

To report a suspect or known case of influenza A, novel virus or ICU-hospitalization or pediatric death due to influenza, please contact the DuPage County Health Department at (630) 221-7553.

In the U.S., annual epidemics of influenza occur typically during the late fall through early spring. Influenza viruses can cause disease among persons in any age group, but **rates of infection are highest among children, and rates of serious illness and death are highest among persons aged ≥65 years, children aged <2 years, and persons of any age who have medical conditions** that place them at increased risk for complications from influenza.¹ Flu seasons are unpredictable and can be severe. Over a period of 30 years, between 1976 and 2006, estimates of flu-associated deaths in the U.S. range from a low of about 3,000 to a high of about 49,000 people.²



Influenza vaccination is the most effective method for preventing influenza virus infection and its potentially severe complications.³ Updates included in the **2012-2013** recommendations of the Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices (ACIP) are:

1. In 2010, the ACIP first recommended annual influenza vaccination for all persons aged ≥6 months in the U.S. **Vaccination of all persons aged ≥6 months continues to be recommended.**⁴
2. U.S. influenza vaccines for 2012-13 will contain A/California/7/2009 (H1N1)-like, A/Victoria/361/2011 (H3N2)-like, and B/Wisconsin/1/2010-like (Yamagata lineage) antigens. The influenza A(H3N2) and B antigens differ from the respective 2010-11 and 2011-12 seasonal vaccine antigens. The influenza A(H1N1) vaccine virus strain is derived from an influenza A(H1N1)pdm09 (2009[H1N1]) virus and was included in the 2009(H1N1) monovalent pandemic vaccine as well as the 2010-11 and 2011-12 seasonal vaccines.⁴
3. 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 Figure 1).⁴
4. Considerations and an algorithm regarding **vaccination of persons with egg allergy** (see Figure 2).⁴

Annual influenza vaccination of healthcare personnel (HCP) is recommended by the ACIP; HCP should also follow **handwashing, respiratory hygiene**, and other **infection control** recommendations to prevent influenza transmission. Vaccination of HCP can reduce morbidity and mortality from influenza and its potentially serious consequences among HCP, their family members, and their patients.⁵

To provide timely estimates of **influenza vaccination coverage and related data among HCP** for the 2011-12 influenza season, CDC conducted an Internet panel survey with 2,348 HCP during April 2-20, 2012. Overall, **66.9% of HCP reported having had an influenza vaccination for the 2011-12 season.**⁵ Earlier estimates of influenza vaccination coverage levels in HCP based on the National Health Interview Survey (NHIS) were 10% in 1989, 38% in 2002, and 49% in 2008.⁵ **Increased vaccination coverage was associated with employer vaccination requirements, employer promotion of HCP vaccination, and vaccination offered at no cost for multiple days.**⁵

CDC's National Healthcare Safety Network (NHSN), a longitudinal surveillance system, has introduced a **module for reporting HCP influenza vaccination at the hospital level**, based on the HCP influenza vaccination measure endorsed by the National Quality Forum (www.cdc.gov/nhsn/hps.html). Beginning in January 2013, **the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services will require acute care hospitals that they reimburse to report HCP influenza vaccination levels** as part of the Hospital Inpatient Quality Reporting Program (www.cms.gov/medicare/quality-initiatives-patient-assessment-instruments/hospitalqualityinits/).⁵

For healthcare facilities licensed by the Illinois Department of Public Health, per the Health Care Employee Vaccination Code adopted in 2009, **"Each health care setting shall maintain a system to track the offer of vaccination to health care employees. The system shall include documentation that each person either accepted the offer or declined the offer by signing a declination statement pursuant to subsection (c)(2)."**⁶

References:

1. www.cdc.gov/mmwr/pdf/rr/rr5908.pdf
2. www.cdc.gov/flu/
3. www.cdc.gov/flu/professionals/vaccination/vax-summary.htm
4. www.cdc.gov/mmwr/preview/mmwrhtml/mm6132a3.htm
5. www.cdc.gov/mmwr/pdf/wk/mm6138.pdf
6. www.iga.gov/commission/jcar/admincode/077/07700956sections.html

