



MARYLAND HEALTHCARE WORKERS INFLUENZA INITIATIVE

Newsletter

Volume 3, Issue 3
November 2008

National Influenza Vaccination Week is Dec 8 - 14, 2008

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) has designated December 8-14, 2008 National Influenza Vaccination Week (NIVW). This initiative is designed to highlight the importance of extended-season influenza vaccination and promote greater uptake of flu vaccine beyond November.

To facilitate observance of NIVW, the CDC has developed campaign resources and a calendar

focusing on special populations:

December 9 — Children's Vaccination Day

December 11 — Seniors' Vaccination Day

Dec. 12 —Healthcare Worker Vaccination Day

For additional information and resources, go to: www.cdc.gov/flu/NIVW/resources.htm

In This Issue

Celebrate NIVW

Netconference on HCW vaccination

Tracking HCW Vaccination Rates

First Maryland Case of Flu Confirmed

Maryland Flu Surveillance

Netconference on Flu Vaccination of Healthcare Workers

The CDC's National Immunization Program will present a live netconference on influenza vaccination of healthcare personnel through their "Current Issues in Immunization" series. Scheduled for **December 12 from 2 p.m. to 3 p.m. Eastern**, the program will feature Andrew T. Kroger, MD, MPH discussing the importance of vaccinating healthcare personnel against influenza and Alan Janssen, MSPH presenting case studies on influenza vaccination of healthcare personnel.

The "Current Issues in Immunization" series is designed to provide clinicians with the most up-to-date information on immunization. It combines a

telephone audio conference with simultaneous online visual content and allows questions and answers by telephone and the internet.

Registration for this program is limited and will close on December 10 or when the course is full. To register, go to:

<http://www2.cdc.gov/vaccines/ed/ciinc>

Internet access and a separate phone line are needed to participate. On-demand replays and presentations will be available shortly after each event.

We Need Your Help to Track HCW Vaccinations Rates

We need your help in determining Maryland's healthcare worker influenza vaccination rate. It is important that Registered Partners of the Maryland Healthcare Workers Influenza Initiative keep accurate records of the number of staff and volunteers immunized against influenza as well as those who decline vaccination.

We rely on the data you submit through the

initiative's Wrap-Up Survey to calculate vaccination rates and identify high-performing facilities. Precise reporting by Registered Partners is critical to determining vaccination rates of individual facilities and the entire state.

Please develop a system to track the EXACT number of staff and volunteers that were immunized against the flu. We're counting on you!



Our monthly newsletters are now available on the initiative webpage under the Additional Resources section

www.edcp.org/html/hcw_initiative.html

Tell a friend!

First Lab-Confirmed Case of Influenza in Maryland



The State of Maryland has confirmed its first case of influenza for the 2008-2009 Season through PCR testing performed at the DHMH laboratory. The specimen was collected from a child in the Baltimore Metro Region. The influenza virus detected was Type A (H1). It is being cultured for further antigen typing.

Cases of influenza confirmed by less specific methods, like rapid antigen testing, will now count as confirmed. Further confirmation by the DHMH Laboratory is warranted in certain cases:

- ◆ Pediatric Deaths;
- ◆ Acute Encephalopathy in a child less than 18 years of age;
- ◆ Outbreaks; and/or
- ◆ Persons with influenza-like illness onset

within 10 days of travel to areas affected by H5N1 (“Avian”) influenza.

It is important to contact the DHMH Epidemiology and Disease Control Program (EDCP) about any of the above situations. Also, please collect and submit to the DHMH laboratory the proper clinical specimen and/or virus isolates in the above instances.

If you have any questions regarding influenza, influenza surveillance, or submission of specimens and/or isolates for testing at the DHMH laboratory, please contact the DHMH EDCP Influenza Surveillance Coordinator at 410-767-6235.

Information about Maryland’s Flu Activity is updated weekly on the EDCP website: www.edcp.org/influenza/

Initiative Sponsors

Maryland Partnership for Prevention, Inc.

P.O. Box 702

Owings Mills, MD 21117

Phone: 410-902-4677

Fax: 410-902-7771

www.immunizemaryland.org

Department of Health & Mental Hygiene (DHMH)

Center for Immunization

201 W Preston St., 3rd Fl

Phone: 410-767-6679

Fax: 410-333-5893

www.EDCP.org
(Immunization)

Tracking Influenza Activity in Maryland

The accuracy of influenza surveillance in Maryland is improving as a result of two innovative programs: sentinel providers and the Maryland Resident Influenza Tracking Survey.

Sentinel providers are health care providers who report weekly the proportion of patients who visited their office with influenza like illness (ILI). Because of the great variability in reported ILI proportions among providers, the median ILI is used instead of the average. This means that half of the ILI reported proportions were below the median and half were above. Reports of visits for influenza-like illness (ILI) to sentinel providers. For Week 46 (Nov 9 - Nov 15, 2008), a total of 124 visits for ILI were reported by 11 providers. The median percent of ILI visits in Maryland was 1.4%. This is below the state baseline of 3.6%.

The Maryland Resident Influenza Tracking Survey is designed to monitor influenza-like illness (ILI) among Maryland residents who do not seek medical attention while experiencing flu-like symptoms. By the end of week 46 (Nov 9 - Nov 15, 2008), a total of 320 participants had signed. Of the 320 residents who received the weekly survey, 238 (74.4%) responded to it. Among the respondents, 3(1.3%) reported flu-like symptoms. A total of 19 (8%) of the respondents reported getting their flu vaccine this week

DHMH continues to recruit participants for the Maryland Resident Influenza Tracking Survey and the Influenza Sentinel Providers. If you are interested in helping track flu activity in Maryland, please call 410-767-6700 or email flu@dhhm.state.md.us.