**Influenza Activity Spotlights**
Friday, December 10, 2010
Issue #12

Professional Medical Organizations
Please disseminate widely to all of your members.

1. **NIVS Immunization Excellence Awards!** The National Influenza Vaccine Summit (NIVS) is soliciting candidates for the 2011 NIVS Immunization Excellence Awards. The 2011 awards recognize individuals and organizations that have made extraordinary contributions towards improved adult, and/or childhood influenza vaccination rates within their communities during the 2010-2011 Influenza Season. A National Winner and Honorable Mention recipient will be selected for each award category. The winners will be presented with their awards at the National Influenza Vaccine Summit meeting (to be held May, dates/location TBD). The national winner in each category will be invited to present their programs at the National Influenza Vaccine Summit meeting.


2. **USA Today** and **The Washington Post** both published an Op-Ed from Secretary Sebelius on December 8. In this Op-Ed column, Secretary Sibelius states that “one of the best gifts you can give your family and friends during the holiday season is getting your flu shot.” To read the entire column, go [here](http://www.usatoday.com/opinion/columnists/sebelius/2010-12-08-sebelius-nflu_x.htm).


4. From the CDC:

   All resources listed below are accessible via CDC’s NIVW site at [http://www.cdc.gov/flu/NIVW/index.htm](http://www.cdc.gov/flu/NIVW/index.htm), under Daily Materials link:

   a. **Free Print materials** for order (new items added!)
      - Everyone--Universal recommendations
      - Pregnant women
      - Minority populations

c. Open Letter to the American People

d. Presidential Proclamation for NIVW

e. The Secretary's influenza Op-Ed on USAToday.com

f. Faith-based resources:
   o Seasonal Flu Guide for Faith and Community organizations and leaders (4 page brief on flu facts, flu fighting action steps for leaders, ways to support vaccination). For hard copies of the guide, please contact Alexia Kelley, Alexia.Kelley@hhs.gov.
   o Bulletin insert: Faith and Communities Fight Flu bulletin insert (5 things community and congregational members can do to stop the flu, for bulletins, community notice boards etc.)
   o Blog post that went up on White House Partnerships blog on NIVW weekend launch with Dr. Benjamin's visit to Potter's House and the resources.

g. Business and Employer's Toolkit: "Make it Your Business to Fight the Flu"
   Tune-in to CDC's "Make it Your Business to Fight the Flu" podcast http://www2c.cdc.gov/podcasts/player.asp?f=4165517#transcript to learn more about the Toolkit and tips for organizing a flu vaccination clinic in your workplace and community.

h. Take the online pledge to get your flu vaccine or take the pledge to encourage others at http://www.cdc.gov/flu/nivw/pledge/?s_cid=seasonalFlu2010_041.

5. NIVS Quick Survey on Influenza Vaccine Uptake in Retail Outlets. The findings from this quick survey were shared by CDC's Cindy Weinbaum on the December 8 Summit Conference Call. As can be seen, it appears that uptake this year is running about even with uptake from last year; however, we are still in the process of measuring the denominator to access our response rate.