



Influenza Activity Spotlight

2012–2013 Season

Issue #21 — June 17, 2013

Reminder: Summit calls are scheduled weekly every Thursday at 3 p.m. ET, unless cancelled. Please email [L.J Tan](#) or [LaDora Woods](#) if you have any updates on activities to provide to the Summit.

Summit Annual Meeting: Thanks to everyone who attended the 2013 Summit annual meeting and in particular, thank you for taking the time to fill in the survey, write post-its, etc., to give us feedback on the meeting and how we can improve it for next year! We also thank you all for the great ideas given, which will be forwarded to the workgroup to consider. Summit meeting [materials](#) (including the final agenda and most presentations) are available for review.

1. National Influenza Vaccine Summit Call

The next Summit call will take place on June 27, 2013. Featured topics will include summaries of the June ACIP meeting and the 2013 Summit post-meeting survey.

- 2. The CDC/Influenza Division Weekly Influenza Surveillance Report** for week 23 (ending June 8, 2013) is available [here](#). This report provides an abbreviated *FluView* for the 2012–2013 influenza season. (Note: As part of summer reporting, an abbreviated version of *FluView* will be available each week.) According to the final full *FluView* for 2012–2013 season, U.S. influenza is at summertime levels in most of the country. However sporadic activity can occur year-round, and vaccination is still recommended for: institutional outbreak control; children needing their second dose, and some travelers going to the Southern Hemisphere, which will soon enter its influenza season. Compared to most previous seasons for which surveillance data are available, the [2012–2013 influenza season](#) started about 4 weeks early and was intense. An [Influenza Summary Update](#) of the influenza activity reported by state and territorial epidemiologists indicates geographic spread of influenza viruses but does not measure the intensity of influenza activity. Archives of previous *FluViews* are available [here](#).

3. Information from CDC

CDC's H7N9 [Key Points](#) from June 14, 2013, discuss recent human infections with influenza A (H7N9) in China. CDC also has issued a [Health Update](#) via the Health Alert Network that summarizes the H7N9 situation and new testing and reporting recommendations for H7N9 in the United States. Updated information on the H7N9 situation will be provided by [CDC](#) and [WHO](#) as it becomes available.

Additional guidance documents for health professionals available on the CDC website include:

- [Interim Guidance on Case Definitions to be Used for Avian Influenza A \(H7N9\) Case Investigations in the United States](#)
- [Interim Guidance for Specimen Collection, Processing, and Testing for Patients Who May Be Infected with Avian Influenza A \(H7N9\) Virus](#)

- [Interim Risk Assessment and Biosafety Level Recommendations for Working with Influenza A \(H7N9\) Viruses](#)

[Key points](#) have been released for the report [Influenza Activity – United States, 2012-13 Season and Composition of the 2013-14 Influenza Vaccine](#), which was published in the *Morbidity and Mortality Weekly Report* on June 13, 2013.

4. Influenza-related Media Reports

[Flu Cases in Ohio Make Huge Jump Over Past Years](#) (San Francisco Chronicle)

DAYTON, Ohio (AP) — The number of Ohioans hospitalized with the flu since last September jumped dramatically over the previous year, but health officials say there isn't an easy explanation for the increase. Health officials say that 5,200 Ohioans ...

[Flu Cases in Ohio Most Since State Began Tracking](#) (FOX19)

DAYTON, Ohio (AP) - The Ohio Department of Health says flu cases this past season were the most since it began keeping count. Stats show that 5,200 Ohioans were hospitalized with the flu from September last year through mid-May 18. That's even up from ...

[Coles County Health Department to Offer Quadrivalent Flu Vaccine](#) (Journal Gazette and Times-Courier)

The Coles County Health Department has been preparing for this upcoming flu season. The CCHD is planning to offer a flu vaccine, quadrivalent, for individuals 6 months through 64 years of age. The quadrivalent vaccine is a new type of vaccination that ...

[School-Based Flu Vaccinations Cost-Effective](#) (Monthly Prescribing Reference)

(HealthDay News) – School-located vaccination against influenza (SLV-I) is a cost-effective means to improve childhood influenza vaccination rates, according to a study published in the April 19 issue of *Vaccine*. Byung-Kwang Yoo, MD, PhD, from ...

[DOH IX Gears for Preparedness Plan vs Pandemic Influenza](#) (Zamboanga Today Online)

The preparedness plan and response plan has each components for preparedness, the office wanted to highlight the strengthened management structure for the prevention and control of pandemic influenza and other emerging infections from the regional ...

[Dutch Scientist Sequence Wild Duck Genome](#) (WorldPoultry.net)

Researchers have already discovered 25 strains of influenza A in this species of waterfowl. The birds themselves are rarely affected by the viruses, but since the emergence of the H5N1 strain, the virus has caused immense damage among poultry in some ...

[Novant Health to Require Flu Vaccinations for Hospital Employees, Volunteers](#) (WCNC)

An analysis of vaccination rates at Loyola University Medical Center in Illinois – one of the first U.S. medical centers to mandate flu vaccinations in 2009 – found the program did not lead to excessive voluntary termination by people who declined to ...

[Paid Time Off Key to Stopping the Flu](#) (BusinessNewsDaily)

Giving employees paid time off when they're sick is the best way to keep influenza, or the flu, from spreading throughout the office, new research shows. A study by the University of Pittsburgh Graduate School of Public Health revealed that allowing ...

[Early, Severe Flu Season Caused Big Rise in Child Deaths: CDC](#) (U.S. News & World Report)

This past flu season started earlier, peaked earlier and led to more adult hospitalizations and child deaths than most flu seasons, U.S. health officials reported Thursday. At least 149 children died, compared to ...

H1N1 Flu Cases Rise Sharply in Venezuela (China Daily)

CARACAS - The number of people infected with the H1N1 virus in Venezuela rose sharply by 57.18 percent in a week's time, to reach 1,138 cases, the country's health ministry reported on Wednesday. The report covering the week of May 26 to June 1 ...

Flu News Scan: No H7N9 in Chinese Health Workers, Flu Season Recap (CIDRAP)

A serologic study of healthcare workers in China's Zhejiang province, the area that has had the most cases in the H7N9 flu outbreak, found no asymptomatic infections with the new virus, according to a letter from Chinese researchers in Clinical ...

Why Taking Two Days Off Work When You've Got the Flu Reduces the Risk of Your... (Daily Mail)

Many people try to bravely soldier on when they have the flu but new research has shown it really would be best - for both them and their employer - if they stayed home. Staff who take two days off work when sick with the flu reduce the risk of their ...

New Video: Abortion Doctor Compares Death Injection to 'Flu Shot' (Washington Examiner)

The latest investigative video from the anti-abortion group Live Action unveiled Thursday shows an Albuquerque, New Mexico abortion doctor comparing the injection used to kill a fetus to a flu shot. The latest investigative video ...

Proteins in Saliva Protect Against Flu (Bioscience Technology)

Saliva is not normally a topic of polite conversation, but it may be the key Spit. Drool. Dribble. Saliva is not normally a topic of polite conversation, but it may be the key to explaining the age and sex bias exhibited by influenza and other diseases ...

Glycoproteins in Saliva of Older People are More Efficient in Binding to Influenza (News-Medical.net)

Published in ACS' Journal of Proteome Research, it provides new insights into why older people were better able to fight off the new strains of "bird" flu and "swine" flu than younger people. Zheng Li and colleagues explain that saliva does more than ...

Flu Season Was Particularly Deadly This Year (LiveScience.com)

Between September 2012 and May 2013, the proportion of deaths in the United States attributed to pneumonia or influenza peaked at 9.9 percent. That's higher than the peak percentage of deaths during flu season in the last five years (which ranged from 7 ...

Experts Raise Awareness about the Importance of Flu Vaccine (News-Medical.net)

The last flu season arrived four weeks early, was more intense than expected and resulted in the deaths of more than 110 children in the United States. In an effort to get ahead of the upcoming flu season, experts at Montefiore Medical Center are ...

School-Based Flu Vaccinations Cost-Effective (Doctors Lounge)

The researchers found that receipt of one or more dose of influenza vaccine was 13.2 percentage points higher in SLV-I schools than control schools. Direct costs, including the school costs (\$9.16/dose in 2009 dollars) plus project costs (\$23.00/dose ...

Flu Vaccination Benefits Underestimated Largely, Says Study (TopNews New Zealand)

Flu Vaccination Benefits Underestimated Largely, Says Study A group of experts at the Oregon State University recently released a damning report in the journal Vaccine. The team said the value of vaccination against influenza is highly misjudged by a ...

HHS Weighs H7N9 Vaccine Stockpiling Options (FierceVaccines)

Stockpiling vaccines requires authorities to peek into the future. When H1N1 was causing panic in 2009, the U.S. predicted it would need 160 million vaccine doses. But demand never took off, and the U.S. destroyed 40 million out-of-date vaccines in 2010.

[UT, Yale Researchers Claim Flu Vaccines Aimed at Younger Populations Could...](#) (BioNews Texas)

Flu vaccine researchers from University of Texas and Yale University recently conducted a computer model analysis, revealing that school-age children and young adolescents are strongly linked to the transmission of a flu virus that causes morbidity and ...

5. Don't Forget to Update and Submit to the New Adult Vaccine Locator!

The new Adult Vaccine Finder is now available! Please forward the following information to immunization providers with whom you work!

Attention Immunization Providers: If you are interested in letting the public know about vaccines offered at your practice or clinic, go to <http://vaccine.healthmap.org>. This site already includes more than 54,000 locations that provide flu shots and has provided this information to 500,000 users from the general public. On January 28, 2013, the site expanded to include 10 additional adult vaccines. If you want to register your location on this website, click on the "about" button on the top right hand side and follow the prompts to register, or go to <https://flushot.healthmap.org/admin/signup>.

6. Summit Website Offers Wonderful Resources on Influenza Vaccination!

Remember to visit the Summit [website](#) for the latest on influenza immunization resources and to view archived copies of the weekly updates.