Reminder: Summit calls are scheduled every Thursday at 3 p.m. ET, unless cancelled. Please note that, due to the federal government’s continued shutdown, we will cancel the Summit call scheduled for Thursday, October 17, 2013. Because the ACIP meeting is still scheduled for October 23–24, we also will cancel the Summit call for that week. Our next Summit call will be October 31, 2013.

We will continue to provide eUpdates to keep partners aware of any significant developments. Thank you for your continued participation.

Please email L.J. Tan or LaDora Woods if you have any updates on activities to provide to the Summit.

1. Summary of the National Adult and Influenza Immunization Summit Call – 10/10/2013

   **Announcements – L.J Tan, IAC**

   L.J. briefly discussed the federal government shutdown and informed the group that we will continue to maintain the routine schedule for weekly Summit calls as long as news is available from partners. If there is no news next week and our federal partners continue to be furloughed, we will send out an announcement about cancelling the meeting.

   **National Influenza and Pneumococcal Press Conference – Marla Dalton, NFID**

   Marla provided a summary of this year’s National Influenza and Pneumococcal Press Conference, which was held at the National Press Club on September 26. She began by thanking the leading medical and public health experts who spoke at the conference, including Howard Koh, Assistant Secretary of Health; Anne Schuchat, Assistant Surgeon General, USPHS; Paul Biddinger, Massachusetts General Hospital and Harvard Medical School and School of Public Health; and Richard Liebowitz, New York Presbyterian Hospital. The session was moderated by William Schaffner, Vanderbilt School of Medicine and Immediate Past-President of NFID. The speakers highlighted important public health messages about coverage rates and the call to vaccinate, as well as information on the severity of disease in pregnant women and the importance of health care provider immunization.

   This year’s event was highly successful. Nearly 60 media representatives attended the conference either onsite or through the live feed. This resulted in a great deal of media coverage, including more than 30 print articles, 300 television spots, and 90 radio spots. Immediately after the conference, there were nearly 350 live tweets at #fightflu, and a radio media tour with Drs. Koh, Schuchat, and Schaffner was carried by nearly 45 stations. Many of these articles/spots also highlighted the importance of antiviral medications.

   Following the press conference, nearly 70 participants, including Dr. Koh, received vaccine as part of NFID’s Leading by Example campaign. Almost 50 organizations have already joined this campaign, but additional partners are encouraged to visit the Leading by Example webpage to learn how to participate.
Finally, Marla noted that an archive of the press conference and press materials may be found on the NFID website. These materials will be available for use throughout the season.

**Families Fighting Flu’s “Stay in the Game” Webinar – Laura Scott, FFF**

Laura reported that Families Fighting Flu (FFF) will be holding a webinar about their new campaign, *Stay in the Game*, on October 16 from 12–1 p.m. ET. The campaign, which stresses the importance of immunization for the entire family, includes a new national PSA, as well as educational materials for physicians, schools, and the community.

Webinar speakers include Andrew Eisenberg, MD, who will discuss the importance of an annual vaccination and highlight the latest news from the NFID press conference, and Shelle Allen, who will talk about her daughter Madison’s (Madi) experience with influenza in 2011. Madi, who was 12 years old at the time, spent 93 days in the hospital before recovering. This compelling story will be featured in a new FFF public service announcement.

Free *Stay in the Game* campaign materials will be launched along with the webinar. To register for the event (pre-registration is required), go to the FFF website.

**Kaiser Permanente Flu Tweet Chat – Lisa Brill, KP**

For the second straight year, Kaiser Permanente (KP) will conduct a live TweetChat to encourage people to get immunized against influenza. This year’s TweetChat will feature KP infectious disease physicians Randy Bergen, Margaret Khoury, and Eric Harker, who will share best practices regarding influenza immunization and prevention. The TweetChat is scheduled for noon to 1 p.m. PT (3–4 p.m. ET) on Thursday, November 14, and it will be publicly available on Twitter at #kphealthychat.

Lisa also reported that Los Angeles (LA) County has joined a growing list of California counties that have initiated a mandatory masking policy for health care workers who are not vaccinated against influenza. The LA requirement includes staff at licensed hospitals and intermediate care facilities. Lisa noted that previous mandates in other counties have had a marked effect on hospital staff coverage. Additionally, there has been a spillover effect into adjacent counties, whose rates also have increased. Click here to see the rationale for this requirement and the health officer order.

**Nominations for NQF “Multistakeholder Input on Priority Setting for Health Care Performance Measurement - Adult Immunization” Panel – L.J Tan, IAC**

Based largely on input from Summit partners, the National Quality Forum (NQF) is now seeking nominations for persons to participate in five committees being established to provide input on priority setting for health care performance measurement. One of the committees is focused on adult immunization. NQF will be accepting nominations through 6 p.m. ET on October 15. For additional information, check out the NQF website.

**Legislative Update – L.J Tan, IAC**

L.J provided a short review of the current federal funding issues, including the following update available from the 317 Coalition.

> With time running out to reach a deal that would stave off a default on U.S. government debt, which occurs on October 17, House Republicans appear to be inching closer towards floating a short-term debt limit increase to avert financial disaster. The Republican Study Committee, the caucus of conservative House members, met yesterday to strategize and members emerged from the meeting with more confidence that a short-term deal could be introduced in the near future. There has been discussion of Rep. Paul Ryan, the House Budget Committee Chairman, pitching a short-term debt ceiling hike that will be paired with spending cuts equal to any increase in the debt limit. This plan would temporarily prevent default while binding politicians to a pledge to work out a deal to fund the government, enact fiscal reforms and raise the debt ceiling for even longer. The President invited all House Republicans to meet with him today, but Speaker Boehner elected to only bring a small group of leadership and committee chairmen, barring more conservative members from the meeting. Today’s meeting is billed as a consultation on funding...
the government and the debt limit increase, and could certainly discuss the potential House short-
term plan. The House Rules committee is meeting today to pave the way for a potential bill to be
introduced.

However, there are some hurdles that deal-makers must overcome. Some Republicans are
dismissing the warnings from the Treasury Department and Wall Street about the severity and
ramifications of a failure to raise the debt ceiling before October 17, so Treasury Secretary Jack
Lew was dispatched to the Senate Finance Committee today to reiterate the impact of a potential
default. Additionally, some Republicans are also pushing to tie this proposal to the House-
passed mini-funding bills that have addressed individual slices of the government. Of particular
interest, Rep. Jack Kingston, the House Chairman of the Labor-HHS appropriations
subcommittee, just introduced another targeted CR that would fund the CDC through December
15, but like the other specific-funding bills introduced in the House, the Senate will refuse to take
this up. Meanwhile, Democrats are continuing to insist on Republicans passing the clean CR,
raising the debt limit and only then having negotiations over longer-term fiscal reforms such as
the tax code and entitlements.

L.J noted that VFC vaccine shipping has continued in spite of the shutdown. A temporary shutdown in
the VTrckKS system, which is used by states to place vaccine orders with CDC, was due to an
unrelated issue and has been resolved. Fortunately, states had received their 317 funding allocation
prior to the shutdown. The FDA’s Center for Biologics Evaluation and Research (CBER) is continuing
to operate, but with reduced staffing. The extent of the impact of the shutdown on CBER is unknown,
but it is anticipated this will cause a backup in the system if it continues much longer.

Influenza Vaccine Availability Tracking System – L.J Tan, IAC

The Influenza Vaccine Availability Tracking System (IVATS) is now live for the 2013–2014 influenza
season. IVATS includes weekly updates from all distributors carrying influenza vaccine.

Partner Updates – All

Pocket Guides

L.J Tan reminded partners that Influenza and Pneumococcal Vaccination Pocket Guides are now
available for bulk order.

Surveillance Discussion

Because the federal shutdown has resulted in a lack of influenza surveillance data, Patsy Stinchfield
with NAPNAP reported that children’s hospitals throughout the country have developed an informal
listserve to share influenza surveillance information. So far, children’s hospitals in Florida and
Georgia are reporting increased influenza activity. Patsy agreed to share this information with Summit
partners during the weekly call.

L.J added that he has heard anecdotal reports of increased activity in Texas, southern California, and
South Carolina, as well as a report from Minnesota related to international travel. Donna Lazorik
noted that Massachusetts is reporting sporadic activity.

HCW Influenza Vaccination Update from IDSA

John Billington with Infectious Diseases Society of America (IDSA) reported that the group’s board of
directors recently refreshed their policy on the mandatory immunization of health care personnel.
When finalized, the updated policy will expand the group’s current policy calling for vaccination
against influenza to a mandate for all ACIP-recommended vaccines for adults. The new policy does
not provide for personal belief exemptions. When the updated policy is finalized, John will be sure to
share it with Summit partners.
2. **The CDC/Influenza Division Weekly Influenza Surveillance Report** for week 38 (ending September 21, 2013 - see #3 below for additional information) is available [here](https://www.cdc.gov/flu/weekly/fluvw.htm), and region specific data may be viewed [here](https://www.cdc.gov/flu/weekly/region_wise.htm). During week 38, 5.7% of all deaths reported through the 122-Cities Mortality Reporting System were due to P&I. This percentage was below the epidemic threshold of 6.1% for week 38. No new influenza-associated pediatric deaths were reported to CDC during week 38. A total of 164 influenza-associated pediatric deaths have been reported during the 2012–2013 season. Additional data can be found [here](https://www.cdc.gov/flu/weekly/region_wise.htm). Nationwide during week 38, 1.0% of patient visits reported through the U.S. Outpatient Influenza-like Illness Surveillance Network (ILINet) were due to influenza-like illness (ILI). This percentage is below the national baseline of 2.2%. An [Influenza Summary Update](https://www.cdc.gov/flu/weekly/region_wise.htm) of the influenza activity reported by state and territorial epidemiologists indicates the geographic spread of influenza viruses, but does not measure the intensity of influenza activity. This map has not yet been updated for the upcoming season. Archives of previous FluViews are available [here](https://www.cdc.gov/flu/weekly/region_wise.htm).

3. **More information from CDC**

   The above surveillance data is the last data set available prior to the federal government shutdown. CDC states that due to the lapse in government funding, regular updates to the CDC influenza web site, including the weekly FluView report and updates to guidance for clinicians, will not be possible. CDC will not be routinely analyzing surveillance data nor testing laboratory specimens submitted as part of routine surveillance. Support for outbreak investigations and response to public queries regarding influenza circulation and prevention will be limited during this time. As a result, information regarding influenza activity and appropriate prevention and treatment guidance on its surveillance website may not be up to date. State and local health departments will continue influenza surveillance and vaccination campaigns, and CDC stresses the need for all persons 6 months of age or older to be vaccinated against influenza according to recently published guidelines. Influenza vaccine is readily available in doctor’s offices, pharmacies, public health clinics and other locations. Clinicians are encouraged to continue submitting specimens for influenza surveillance and to contact their state or local health departments for assistance with investigating possible novel influenza cases or influenza outbreaks. Additional information regarding influenza viruses, influenza surveillance, influenza vaccines, influenza antiviral medications, and novel influenza A virus infections in humans is available [here](https://www.cdc.gov/flu/weekly/region_wise.htm).

4. **Join Families Fighting Flu's New Stay in the Game™ campaign!**

   Please join Families Fighting Flu (FFF) on Wednesday, October 16 from 12–1 p.m. EST for an interactive and informational “virtual summit” to hear from a team of experts about what you need to know and do to be prepared for the upcoming flu season. They will be talking about the latest news about this flu season and last year’s vaccination rates. You’ll also hear a personal story shared by a mother and daughter who experienced first-hand just how serious the flu can be for children. Learn about ways to keep yourself, your family and community flu free and ideas on sharing this important information with others through the launch of Families Fighting Flu's new Stay in the Game™ campaign. Pre-registration is required. Click [here](https://www.cdc.gov/flu/weekly/region_wise.htm) to register.

5. **Kaiser Permanente Flu Prevention Tweet Chat**

   *Get the facts about the flu*: Join a live twitter discussion with Kaiser Permanente infectious disease physicians, Randy Bergen, MD, Margaret Khoury, MD, and Eric Harker, MD, as they talk about prevention and treatment this flu season. The tweet chat takes place on November 14 at 1 p.m. Pacific time. To participate, click [here](https://www.cdc.gov/flu/weekly/region_wise.htm) and enter #kphealthychat.

   **Times in various time zones**
   - Hawaii 9 –10 am
   - Pacific noon – 1 pm
   - Mountain 1 – 2 pm
6. **Summit’s Influenza Vaccine Availability Tracking System (IVATS) is Live and Updated Weekly!**

   Looking for where to get influenza vaccine? The Summit’s [IVATS](#) is live again for the 2013-2014 season. Distributors, please send in your data!

7. **Subscribe to IAC Express to Stay Up-to-Date on All Things Immunization!**

   Need to stay up with the latest in immunization information and recommendation? Consider [IAC Express](#), which is delivered directly to your email box! It features important immunization developments such as the latest vaccine recommendations and licensures, important journal articles, practical vaccination resources, conference announcements, and more.

   Click [here](#) to subscribe to IAC Express or any of the Immunization Action Coalition’s other publications.

8. **Update from the 317 Coalition on the Government Shutdown (October 10, 2013)**

   With time running out to reach a deal that would stave off a default on U.S. government debt, which occurs on October 17, House Republicans appear to be inching closer towards floating a short-term debt limit increase to avert financial disaster. The Republican Study Committee, the caucus of conservative House members, met October 9 to strategize and members emerged from the meeting with more confidence that a short-term deal could be introduced in the near future. There has been discussion of Rep. Paul Ryan, the House Budget Committee Chairman, pitching a short-term debt ceiling hike that will be paired with spending cuts equal to any increase in the debt limit. This plan would temporarily prevent default while binding politicians to a pledge to work out a deal to fund the government, enact fiscal reforms and raise the debt ceiling for even longer. The President invited all House Republicans to meet with him October 10, but Speaker Boehner elected to only bring a small group of leadership and committee chairmen, barring more conservative members from the meeting. This meeting was billed as a consultation on funding the government and the debt limit increase, and could certainly discuss the potential House short-term plan. The House Rules committee met October 10 to pave the way for a potential bill to be introduced.

   However, there are some hurdles that deal-makers must overcome. Some Republicans are dismissing the warnings from the Treasury Department and Wall Street about the severity and ramifications of a failure to raise the debt ceiling before October 17, so Treasury Secretary Jack Lew was dispatched to the Senate Finance Committee October 10 to reiterate the impact of a potential default. Additionally, some Republicans are also pushing to tie this proposal to the House-passed mini-funding bills that have addressed individual slices of the government. Of particular interest, Rep. Jack Kingston, the House Chairman of the Labor-HHS appropriations subcommittee, introduced another targeted CR that would fund the CDC through December 15, but like the other specific-funding bills introduced in the House, the Senate refused to take this up. Meanwhile, Democrats are continuing to insist on Republicans passing the clean CR, raising the debt limit and only then having negotiations over longer-term fiscal reforms such as the tax code and entitlements.

9. **Government Shutdown Delaying Production of New Influenza Vaccine**

   The partial shutdown of the federal government is preventing a Rockland County pharmaceuticals company from developing a new influenza vaccine. Protein Sciences has developed the first egg-free influenza vaccine that can be made more quickly than traditional vaccines. If a federal emergency is declared, scientists estimate they can produce 50 million doses in a six-month period.
10. Diseases that Spread From Animals

In this interesting op-ed in the New York Times, David Quammen explores the origins of potential afflictions that might cause future pandemics. This accompanying article looks deeper at the symptoms, circumstances and fallout that characterized the Black Death, Spanish Influenza, Ebola virus, AIDS and SARS.

11. Athenahealth Steps Up to Track Influenza

With statisticians from the federal Centers for Disease Control and Prevention temporarily sidelined by the US government shutdown, an electronic health records company based in Watertown says it is stepping forward to track the spread of influenza and other infectious diseases.

Athenahealth Inc., which provides software to 44,000 doctors and hospitals across the country, will deploy its Internet database to monitor about 300,000 patients visiting primary care physicians weekly. The company will post related information — everything from the proportion of patients with the flu to the share that has received vaccinations — on its website. Additional information is available here.


With the federal government shutdown causing a suspension of the CDC’s national influenza surveillance, Direct Relief today released a report about current influenza patterns and high-risk areas in the U.S. based on open source epidemiological tools and information, as well as information provided by nonprofit community health centers and clinics nationwide. An additional story may be viewed here.

13. Obama Team: Shutdown Cripples Research; Flu Surveillance

The Obama administration has been periodically sending out statements on how the government shutdown has hurt government services. The latest examples: Science and health research.

The statement calls out the CDC saying, “…Centers for Disease Control: Two-thirds of CDC personnel have been sent home. CDC’s activities in influenza surveillance and monitoring have been cut back, just as we are moving into peak flu season. While many flu vaccines are produced by private companies, CDC’s annual flu vaccination campaigns have been cut back and the weekly Flu View report that is relied upon by public-health authorities has been suspended.”

14. Government Shutdown Hampers San Joaquin Valley Flu Tracking

As a result of the government shutdown, guessing this year’s flu arrival could be a particularly thorny challenge and may require the use of some new electronic tools, including Google Flu Trends, that can give a “real time” map tracking the spread of the illness.

Doctors generally get an idea of the influenza’s due date by following the federal Centers for Disease Control and Prevention's weekly FluView report, which tracks the influenza virus as it moves across the country. This year, however, the health agency has been hobbled by furloughs forced by the partial government shutdown. The CDC has not updated its flu report since mid-September.

Additional information is available here.
15. China: No New H7N9 Bird Flu Cases Reported Since August

The National Health and Family Planning Commission in China reported Friday that the month of September was H7N9 avian influenza free, according to a Xinhua news report.

According to the World Health Organization (WHO), the last laboratory-confirmed human case of H7N9 avian influenza was reported on Aug. 11. To date, WHO has been informed of a total of 135 laboratory-confirmed human cases with avian influenza A(H7N9) virus including 44 deaths.

16. “Flu Circulating in Iowa…”

Officials at the Iowa Department of Public Health are urging Iowans over the age of six months to get flu shots.

Surveillance by IDPH influenza sentinel sites and confirmatory testing by the State Hygienic Laboratory shows influenza is circulating in Iowa. Three cases of seasonal influenza have been identified in eastern and central Iowa in the last two months; all were type A – the strain that can cause more serious illness.

“It’s important to note that influenza is not a ‘reportable disease’ in Iowa,” IDPH Medical Director, Dr. Patricia Quinlisk, said in a news release. “This means health care providers are not required to notify IDPH each time a patient tests positive for influenza; thus there are probably a lot more people with the flu out in our communities.”

Stories on influenza in Iowa are available here and here.

17. First Influenza Hospitalizations in Salt Lake City, Utah

There have been some hospitalizations due to influenza, but with health officials furloughed it is impossible to track if this year's flu season is early.

Nicholas Rupp, spokesman for the Salt Lake County Health Department, told The Salt Lake Tribune the county had its first influenza hospitalization, in a child under the age of 18. Rupp said the county will still collect and report its flu data, but the data won't be analyzed or tracked by health officials at the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention in Atlanta because of the federal government shutdown.

18. 1st Cases of Influenza Reported in South Dakota: 3 People in Minnehaha and Davison Counties

The first flu has been reported in South Dakota for the season. The Department of Health says three influenza cases have been detected. A case of influenza B was reported in a Minnehaha County resident in their 70s. Influenza A was reported in a Davison County child under the age of 10 and someone from Minnehaha County in their 30s. None were hospitalized.

19.  First Maryland Influenza Case of Season Confirmed

According to an October 3 news release from the Maryland Department of Health and Mental Hygiene (MD DHMH), seasonal influenza has officially arrived in Maryland with the first laboratory-confirmed case. It was identified in a child from the National Capital Region who was briefly hospitalized, but is recovering. The influenza strain detected was type A (H1N1), against which this year's seasonal flu vaccine provides protection.
20. Influenza Cases Confirmed In Central Texas

The Scott & White Hospital Microbiology Lab Monday confirmed that three adults have tested positive for flu A or flu B, two in Bell County and one in Williamson County. The hospital is encouraging residents to get vaccinated.

21. The Government Has the Flu. Do You, Too?

This story discusses the behind-the-scenes work in influenza that is performed by the CDC that is now not happening as a result of the government shutdown. It concludes by saying, “As mentioned above, the greatest factor determining the country’s flu well-being, is uncertainty, as it is every year. Preparedness counts, so getting this year’s updated flu shot is everyone’s best defense against the virus, government or no government.”

22. Respiratory Virus Season Hits Health Care Personnel Hard

Symptoms of acute respiratory infections occur in 22% of health care providers during the respiratory viral season, and almost as many have asymptomatic infection, according to findings from the Respiratory Protection Effectiveness Clinical Trial. Mandatory influenza vaccination may help reduce absenteeism resulting from flulike symptoms, according to a separate report from the same study.

An additional news story is available here.

23. California's Vaccine Law: Governor, Department of Public Health on Verge of Jeopardizing Health of State's Children

Vaccines are one of the greatest and most successful tools ever developed for preventing disease and protecting public health. Gov. Jerry Brown and the California Department of Public Health, however, are on the verge of taking action that could violate the spirit of California’s law, undermine the statewide effort to get more children immunized and threaten the health of all California communities.

24. Rising Number Of Vaccine Skeptics Worry Doctors

Public health officials in Massachusetts issued warnings recently, reminding people that measles can still be a concern after two cases of the disease were diagnosed in Boston. They also cautioned that measles can spread fast among people who are not vaccinated — about 3 percent of the state’s population. And they flagged western Massachusetts in particular for its growing number of parents who decline or delay recommended immunizations.

25. CDC Shutdown: Mayo Clinic Expert Explains What it Means for This Flu Season — and the Next

Mayo Clinic infectious diseases expert Gregory Poland, M.D., explains what the CDC normally does and what federal furloughs mean to efforts to protect people from contagious illnesses.

26. Flublok Influenza Vaccine Update: Product To Be Available By Thanksgiving

Protein Sciences Corporation announced today that they expect the first doses of Flublok influenza vaccine for the 2013/2014 season to be released in time for vaccinations to occur prior to Thanksgiving.
27. Scientists Identify Molecules that Block Influenza Virus Replication

Researchers at Rutgers University recently developed a new way to attack flu viruses by using chemical agents that block the virus’ ability to replicate, the university announced on Friday.

The novel compounds use an approach that previously aided in the development of powerful anti-AIDS drugs. The compounds bind to metal ions in a viral enzyme, which can stop the enzyme’s ability to activate a key step in the replication process.

Click here to see the full text of the study.

28. 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.

29. 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.