Reminder: Summit calls are scheduled every Thursday at 3 p.m. ET, unless cancelled. The Summit call on Thursday, October 17, 2013, was cancelled. Because the ACIP meeting is October 23-24, we will have a one-time reschedule of the Summit call to Friday, October 25 at 3 p.m. ET. 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. The October 17 National Adult and Influenza Immunization Summit Call was cancelled.

2. The CDC/Influenza Division Weekly Influenza Surveillance Report for week 41 (ending October 12, 2013) is available here, and region specific data may be viewed here. During week 41, 5.6% 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 41. No new influenza-associated pediatric deaths were reported to CDC during week 41. Nationwide during week 41, 1.1% of patient visits reported through the U.S. Outpatient Influenza-like Illness Surveillance Network (ILINet) were due to influenza-like illness (ILI). [ILI is defined as fever (temperature of 100°F/37.8°C or greater) and cough and/or sore throat.] This percentage is below the national baseline of 2.0%. An Influenza Summary Update 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.

During week 41, the following influenza activity was reported:

- Regional influenza activity was reported by Puerto Rico.
- Local influenza activity was reported by three states (Alabama, South Carolina and Texas.)
- Sporadic influenza activity was reported by the District of Columbia, Guam, the U.S. Virgin Islands, and 24 states (Alaska, Arizona, California, Connecticut, Florida, Georgia, Hawaii, Indiana, Iowa, Louisiana, Maryland, Massachusetts, Minnesota, Mississippi, New Jersey, New Mexico, New York, North Dakota, Ohio, South Dakota, Utah, Washington, Wisconsin, and Wyoming.)
- No influenza activity was reported by 22 states (Arkansas, Colorado, Delaware, Idaho, Illinois, Kansas, Kentucky, Maine, Michigan, Missouri, Montana, Nebraska, New Hampshire, North Carolina, Oklahoma, Oregon, Pennsylvania, Rhode Island, Tennessee, Vermont, Virginia, and West Virginia.)
- One state (Nevada) did not report.

Archives of previous FluViews are available here.
3. More information from CDC

**COCA Activity; “Protecting Children at Highest Risk for Influenza Complications”**

A recent Clinical Outreach and Communication Activity (COCA) webinar, “Protecting Children at Highest Risk for Influenza Complications,” was held on September 24, 2013. As children with chronic medical conditions, including asthma, diabetes, and neurologic and neurodevelopmental disorders, are at higher risk for influenza-associated complications, the use of antiviral therapies early and aggressively in these vulnerable children can lessen the impact of influenza infection. Clinicians have a critical role in taking action to immunize these children and their close contacts. During this COCA Call, subject matter experts from CDC and the American Academy of Pediatrics discussed strategies that primary care providers and medical subspecialists can use in partnership with parents to improve influenza prevention and control in children at highest risk.

**Ongoing CDC Investigations on the Spread of MERS-CoV**

A novel coronavirus called “Middle East Respiratory Syndrome Coronavirus” (MERS-CoV) was identified in 2012 as the cause of respiratory illness in people. Investigations are being conducted to determine the source of MERS-CoV and how it spreads.

**H7N9 Status report from CDC**

Human infections with a new avian influenza A (H7N9) virus continue to be reported in China. The virus has been detected in poultry in China as well. While mild illness in human cases has been seen, most patients have had severe respiratory illness and some people have died. No cases of H7N9 outside of China have been reported.

**Planning and Preparedness: Health Professionals and Seasonal Flu**

Health care providers play an important role during influenza season. Guidance and information available here will assist health care providers and service organizations to plan and respond to seasonal influenza.

4. News and Information from the European Scientists Fighting Influenza (ESWI)

The National Adult and Influenza Immunization Summit enjoys a close working relationship with ESWI and specifically, their work in organizing the annual EU Flu Summit.

Some new initiatives from ESWI are highlighted below:

- ESWI has launched the third edition of the **Influenza Award for Young Scientists**. The most promising body of work in influenza research will be awarded a prize of €10,000. The competition is open to all young scientists worldwide. Please help ESWI find appropriate applicants for their **Young Scientist Award** by sharing this message with your researcher-colleagues and/or by printing and displaying their flyer.

- The ESWI **FluQuest report** is an account of a May 3, 2013 workshop during which ESWI presented the outcome of the group’s survey on pandemic preparedness in Europe. ESWI had set up this evidence-based study last year, and this unique survey revealed some remarkable trends, caveats and differences in Europe’s approach to pandemic preparedness planning.

- The ESWI **Flu Summit Report** provides an account of the third EU Flu Summit, held on May 2, 2013, in which the National Adult and Influenza Immunization Summit participated.

- ESWI will be organizing the fifth edition of its Influenza Conferences in September 2014 in Riga. The conference website now features general delegate and sponsor information, important dates, preliminary programs and a registration module. The upcoming fifth edition will give the floor to the most renowned influenza scientists in order to: showcase recent advances in basic science and the control and prevention of influenza; stimulate the scientific debate on novel, unpublished research data; and advance the understanding of influenza by identifying new research routes. Additionally, the conference will have a second, tailor-made program for public health officials and opinion leaders in healthcare work.
5. **Voices for Vaccines Offers Conference Call on Vaccines and the Media**

*Voices for Vaccines* is a parent-driven organization supported by scientists, doctors, and public health officials that provides parents with clear, science-based information about vaccines and vaccine-preventable disease. The group is extending an invitation to anyone interested in attending their November 5 conference call, *Vaccines and the Media*, to be held on November 5 at 11 a.m. EST. The session will include a discussion on the ways journalists can successfully and honestly report on vaccine issues and how members of the public can respond to what they see in the media. The featured speaker will be Curtis Brainard, contributing editor of the *Columbia Journalism Review*. To register, send an email here.

6. **The Joint Commission Offers Free Continuing Education Course**

On October 21, 2013, the Joint Commission announced an updated version of the free *Strategies for Improving Rapid Influenza Testing in Ambulatory Settings (SIRAS)* continuing education (CE) course for physicians, physician assistants and registered nurses. SIRAS was developed under a cooperative agreement between the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) and The Joint Commission.

The four, 30-minute courses provide a review of information pertinent to performing point of care testing in the ambulatory setting. The module, updated since it was first offered in 2012 and now available for iPads and tablets, contains videos to aid ambulatory practices get ready for this year’s influenza season. Demonstrations of proper techniques for collecting respiratory specimens are designed to help ambulatory care providers correctly use and interpret RIDTS in order to obtain quick results that can play a key role in guiding clinical decisions.

Course registration information is available here. For more information about the SIRAS modules, please contact Jill Chmielewski. News stories about the course are available here and here.

7. **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 and enter #kphealthychat.

*Times in various time zones*

- Hawaii 9 –10 am
- Pacific noon – 1 pm
- Mountain 1 – 2 pm
- Central 2 – 3 pm
- Eastern 3 – 4 pm

If you have questions about the November 14 TweetChat, please contact Vince Golla or Lisa Brill.

8. **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!
9. Society for Adolescent Health and Medicine Summit Highlights New Ideas for Eliminating Barriers to Adolescent Immunization

Representatives of 10 grantee programs participating in a two-year initiative, “Improving Understanding of Adolescent Vaccination through Innovative Local Public Health Demonstration Projects,” gathered at the Cincinnati Children’s Hospital Medical Center last week to discuss new strategies and tactics for increasing adolescent immunization rates for a range of vaccines important for teens and young adults, including human papillomavirus, meningococcal, influenza, and Tdap (tetanus, diphtheria and pertussis).

The summit was hosted by the Society for Adolescent Health and Medicine (SAHM), which, in February 2011, awarded grants of $150,000 to $160,000 to the 10 organizations for public health demonstration projects designed to address the unique barriers associated with vaccination uptake in the adolescent population. The funding was supported by a grant to SAHM from Merck & Co, Inc. Grantees will finalize the results of their research in the closing months of 2013 and the first quarter of 2014 and write summary papers for publication in the Journal of Adolescent Health and other journals. Additional dissemination activity is planned using the SAHM website and through other media. To obtain more information or to speak to an expert, contact Kasia Chalko at SAHM headquarters, +1-847-753-5226 x351. Additional information is available here.

10. First fall case of H7N9 reported in China

The Centre for Health Protection (CHP) of the Department of Health (DH) was notified today (October 15) by the National Health and Family Planning Commission (NHFPC) of a human case of avian influenza A(H7N9) in Zhejiang. The case involves a 35-year-old man who is receiving treatment in hospital. His current condition is serious. The sample from the patient tested positive for the avian influenza A(H7N9) virus in testing by the Centre for Disease Control and Prevention of Zhejiang Province, and the case was subsequently confirmed by the Health Bureau of Zhejiang Province.

To date, a total of 135 human cases of avian influenza A(H7N9) have been laboratory confirmed in the Mainland, including Zhejiang (47 cases), Shanghai (33 cases), Jiangsu (28 cases), Jiangxi (6 cases), Fujian (5 cases), Anhui (4 cases), Henan (4 cases), Shandong (2 cases), Hunan (2 cases), Beijing (2 cases), Hebei (1 case) and Guangdong (1 case).

A DH spokesman remarked that the CHP is closely monitoring the situation and maintaining close liaison with the Mainland health authorities for case details, as well as keeping a close eye on the latest advice from the World Health Organization (WHO).

11. More Data Showing Flu Vaccine Lowers CVD Risk

A recent meta-analysis (log-in required to view) of six randomized, controlled clinical trials that included 6,735 patients, showed that influenza vaccination was associated with a 36% lower risk of cardiovascular events. The influenza vaccine was associated with 55% lower risk of major adverse cardiovascular events in patients with a recent acute coronary syndrome (ACS). In these ACS patients, investigators say just eight patients would need to be treated with the influenza vaccine to prevent one major cardiovascular event. Click here to see the full paper from JAMA, as well as an accompanying commentary by Kathy Neuzil.

12. Which Influenza Vaccine is Right for Your Patient?

Several new influenza vaccines recently have been approved by the FDA, giving providers greater access to the vaccine and patients a better opportunity to be immunized.

In addition to the trivalent influenza vaccine (which contains an A/California/7/2009 (H1N1)-like virus, an H3N2 virus antigenically like the cell-propogated prototype virus A/Victoria/361/2011, and a B/Massachussets/2/2012-like virus), a quadrivalent vaccine, containing a B/Brisbane/60/2008-like virus...
has also been made available by several manufacturers. Four quadrivalent vaccines have been approved by the FDA: Flumist Quadrivalent (MedImmune), Fluarix Quadrivalent (GlaxoSmithKline), Fluzone Quadrivalent (Sanofi Pasteur), and Flulaval Quadrivalent (GlaxoSmithKline).

While these vaccines may differ by indication and route of administration, CDC has no preferential recommendation for any one specific influenza vaccine product over another with regards to efficacy. Additional information is available here.

13. Research Offers New Insight in Quest for Single Vaccine Against Multiple Influenza Strains

A study led by St. Jude Children’s Research Hospital scientists highlights a new approach for developing a universal influenza vaccine that could protect against multiple flu strains, including deadly pandemic strains. The research appears today in the advance online edition of the scientific journal Nature Immunology.

Researchers used the immune suppressing drug rapamycin to shift the immune response following flu vaccination to favor production of antibodies that broadly target flu viruses. The result was a more diverse antibody response to the vaccination that expanded protection to include pandemic strains not targeted by the vaccine. Vaccination is the most effective strategy against flu, particularly the pandemic strains that emerge periodically, but efforts to develop a single, universal vaccine against all flu strains have been unsuccessful.

14. Anaphylaxis Elevated after H1N1 Vaccination, Quebec Study Says

In this report in the October 19 issue of Vaccine, researchers report that Quebec passive surveillance showed an increase in anaphylaxis after H1N1pdm09 vaccination. Many cases which were reported as other AEFI also met the criteria for anaphylaxis. The report speculates that anaphylaxis was likely underrecognized and its incidence higher than passively observed. The incidence of anaphylaxis is estimated at 13 per million doses administered and the article states that enhanced public awareness is unlikely to be the predominant explanation for this increase.

15. Vaccinated Teens May Protect Babies from Pertussis

A recent study found that having more teens vaccinated against whooping cough reduced the number of babies going to the hospital for the illness. The researchers compared the rates of hospitalization for babies with pertussis during the years before (2000 to 2005) and after (2008 to 2011) the introduction of the ACIP teen vaccination recommendation. They found that about six babies out of every 10,000 admitted to the hospital had had pertussis in the year 2000. This rate increased each year by almost one child per year (per 10,000 babies) until the researchers stopped measuring in 2005. Then, the rate of babies admitted to the hospital for pertussis in 2008, 2009 and 2011 was lower than the numbers admitted before 2006. The rate of babies admitted to the hospital for whooping cough in 2010 was not much different than the rates before the vaccine was recommended for teens.

An additional story about the study is available here.

16. Effectiveness of Paid Sick Days at Reducing Influenza Transmission at Work

The study, “Policies to Reduce Influenza in the Workplace: Impact Assessments Using an Agent-Based Model,” published in the American Journal of Public Health, examined the impact of universal paid sick days on influenza incidence. Using the model, the impacts of two policy changes were explored: First, the availability of paid sick days for all individuals in the area studied. Second was “flu days” — paid sick days specifically available for those with influenza.
17. Mandatory Influenza Shots Linked with Reduced Sick Day Use

Health care personnel working in outpatient facilities with mandatory influenza vaccination policies took fewer sick days than those working in sites without vaccination policies, according to a study presented on October 3, 2013, at ID Week in San Francisco. The results indicate that higher influenza vaccination rates are associated with fewer flu-related sick days taken by health care professionals. The researchers note, however, that other factors such as sick leave policy, geographical location, patient population, and disease burden, may also affect the number of sick days taken.

18. Novartis, Ruder Finn Debut Meningitis Effort

‘Protecting Our Tomorrows: Portraits of Meningococcal Disease’ is a global meningococcal disease awareness campaign led by iconic photographer Anne Geddes and patient support groups from around the world. The campaign is aimed at educating parents about the threat of meningococcal disease and the importance of prevention through inspirational photographs that celebrate survivors and honor those who lost their lives to the disease. Partnering with meningococcal disease support groups from around the world, Anne Geddes will photograph 10–15 families on three continents who have experienced the impact of meningococcal disease.

19. Polio Outbreak in Syria

Twenty-two (22) suspected cases of polio have been reported in north-east Syria, and many more may be infected, spreading the virus. This is bad news for Syrians, and for the world. Polio is on the brink of eradication, and if the ongoing war in Syria frustrates efforts to smother this outbreak, the disease could make a wider comeback.

A massive vaccination drive across the entire region should be under way within weeks, say officials at the World Health Organization in Geneva, Switzerland. However, the real problem, and probable source of the Syrian outbreak, is north-west Pakistan, where polio vaccination is banned by local leaders.

20. Joint Task Force Civil Support Holds Annual Seasonal Influenza Immunization Exercise

Members of Joint Task Force Civil Support ensured their continued ability to respond to natural or man-made disasters by receiving annual vaccinations on Oct. 17, 2013. Command members lined up in the mobility center of Mullan Hall to ensure they remain healthy during the coming influenza and cold season. The unit must maintain medical readiness to respond in the event of a chemical, biological, radiological or nuclear catastrophe was to occur in the United States. Additional information may be found here.

21. Flu Virus Wipes Out Immune System's First Responders to Establish Infection

Whitehead Institute scientists have discovered that the virus is able to infect its host by first killing off the cells of the immune system that are actually best equipped to neutralize the virus. On the surface of memory B cells generated against influenza virus are high-affinity virus-specific receptors that bind virus particles to reduce viral spread. Flu virus exploits the specificity of the cells' receptors, using them to gain entry, disrupt antibody production, and ultimately kill the cells. By dispatching of memory B cells in this fashion, the virus is able to replicate efficiently before the immune system can mount a second wave of defense. More information may be found here.
22. Alabama reports early influenza activity, doctors urge people to get vaccinated

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention lists Alabama as one of three states reporting influenza activity, and doctors know this is just the beginning with flu season set to reach its peak in the early part of 2014.

"It's hard to tell what's going to happen. It might be the next month we see a lot of cases. Then the next month we don't. So, typically our peak season is January, February for us here in Alabama," said Tracey England, Nurse Manager with the Alabama Department of Health.

23. Maternal Influenza Vaccination Effects Vary by Maternal Characteristics

Influenza vaccination during pregnancy was associated with significantly lower odds of delivering a preterm or small for gestational age infant during a period of widespread influenza activity, but the effects varied based on maternal characteristics, according to findings from a large retrospective cohort study presented by Saad Omer at the combined annual meetings of the Infectious Diseases Society of America, the Society for Healthcare Epidemiology of America, the HIV Medicine Association, and the Pediatric Infectious Diseases Society.

24. Flu Shot May Reduce Pneumonia Risk

Children and adults who are vaccinated against influenza are not only at decreased risk for flu, they are also less likely to develop flu-associated pneumonia, new research presented at ID Week in San Francisco suggests. The study evaluated the effectiveness of the influenza vaccine in preventing community-acquired pneumonia, one of the most severe complications of flu. Among patients with influenza-related pneumonia, only 22% had been vaccinated, compared with 35% of influenza-negative pneumonia patients. Overall, the vaccine was estimated to be 59% effective in preventing pneumonia hospitalizations.

25. Flu Rates Higher in IBD

Patients with inflammatory bowel disease (IBD) have significantly higher rates of influenza than the greater population. In a retrospective review, IBD patients had rates of influenza that were 1.6 times higher than controls (incidence rate ratio 1.58, 95% CI 1.49-1.68), reported Andrew Tinsley, MD, of the Penn State Hershey IBD Center at the annual meeting of the American College of Gastroenterology.

26. Adjuvanted Vaccine Boosts Flu Protection for Elderly

A recent study has strengthened the current knowledge of the increased effectiveness of adjuvanted flu vaccines in the elderly—a population highly affected by seasonal influenza. The 'real world' study, based in Canada, assessed less than 300 elderly participants for adjuvanted vaccine effectiveness. It found an MF59 adjuvanted vaccine provided more protection (60 per cent effectiveness) against influenza compared with the unadjuvanted trivalent influenza vaccine. With participants of the study at a median age of 83 years, researchers analyzed a demographic that has increasing issues with their immune system's response to vaccines. The entire news article is available here.

27. Visitors Must Wear Masks: London Hospitals

Looks like it's going to be mask on for hospital visitors in London this winter. St. Joseph’s Health Care and London Health Sciences Centre (LHSC) are working to curb the spread of the influenza virus, which last flu season killed 26 people and put 297 in hospital.
Non-vaccinated staff and physicians will be required to be vaccinated or wear a procedure mask when providing patient care when influenza is confirmed to be circulating in the community. Due to the high use of common areas by patients at St. Joseph’s, all non-vaccinated staff, physicians and visitors are required to wear a procedure mask in common areas when influenza is circulating in the community. Visitors and patients are also encouraged to clean their hands when entering, leaving and walking through different areas of the hospitals. Visitors will also be asked to help reduce the spread of influenza at both organizations. Non-vaccinated visitors will be asked to wear a mask when influenza is circulating in the community. Proof of vaccination will not be required. Visitors will be provided with procedure masks.

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.