

CDC Influenza Division Key Points

September 11, 2015

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Early 2015-2016 Influenza Season Update

- Flu activity in the United States is low nationwide according to this week's [FluView](#), but flu season is approaching.
- The National Foundation for Infectious Diseases (NFID) will hold a press conference on September 17, 2015, launching the 2015-2016 influenza vaccination campaign.
- An influenza activity update and final influenza vaccine coverage estimates for 2014-2015 are scheduled to be published in the Morbidity and Mortality Weekly Report ([MMWR](#)) and online on September 17, 2015.
- Manufacturers have begun shipping flu vaccine for the upcoming season. [They report](#) having shipped more than 40 million doses of vaccine as of September 4, 2015.
- The total projected supply of vaccine in the United States this season is between [171 million and 179 million doses of flu vaccine](#).
- The composition of this season's vaccine has been updated. (The influenza A H3N2 and influenza B components were changed from last season.)
- The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) recommends annual flu vaccination for everyone 6 months and older.
- While flu vaccine can vary in how well it works, vaccination can reduce flu illnesses, doctors' visits, and missed work and school due to flu, as well as prevent flu-related hospitalizations and deaths.
- Each flu season, flu causes millions of illnesses, hundreds of thousands of hospitalizations and thousands or sometimes tens of thousands of deaths.
- A flu vaccine is our best defense against getting the flu.
- Flu vaccine will protect against three or four different flu viruses, depending on which vaccine you get.
- It takes about two weeks after vaccination for protection to set in so try to get vaccinated by October if possible.
- Go to <http://vaccine.healthmap.org/> or www.cdc.gov/flu to find a location near you where you can get vaccinated.

Flu Activity Update

- Below is a summary of the key flu activity indicators:

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- The proportion of visits to health care providers for influenza-like illness (ILI) is below the national baseline. All 10 U.S. regions reported ILI activity below region-specific baseline levels.
- Nationally, the percentage of respiratory specimens testing positive for influenza in the United States is low.
- Influenza A and influenza B viruses are currently circulating at low levels. This includes both of the subtypes of influenza A viruses, H3N2 and H1N1. For the week ending September 5, 69 of the 84 influenza positive tests reported to CDC were influenza A and 15 were influenza B viruses. Among the 69 influenza A viruses identified that week, 29 were H3N2 viruses and 2 were influenza A (H1N1)pdm09 viruses; subtyping was not performed on the remaining 38 influenza A viruses.
- The [proportion of deaths](#) attributed to pneumonia and influenza (P&I) based on the 122 Cities Mortality Reporting System is below the epidemic threshold.