

National Adult and Influenza Immunization Summit
“Setting the Stage for 2024-2025 Respiratory Virus Season:
Where Are We and Where Can We Go from Here”
Webinar Q&A: May 16, 2024

QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

Q: Is there any specific data on the efficacy of flu vaccine clinics hosted by community-based organizations (perhaps in partnership with their local/state health departments)?

Carla Black (CDC): I don't have actual concrete data on that. I would say, anecdotally, they are effective. Early on in the COVID vaccination campaign, we saw that; and unfortunately it's not still true, but for the initial primary vaccine, we were successful in closing some of those disparities by race and ethnicity. And a lot of that was attributed to vaccination clinics in non-traditional settings, partnering with trusted messengers, and offering vaccination in the community at churches and barber shops, restaurants, places that people go. So, it seems like it should be an effective strategy for flu, as well.

L.J Tan (Immunize): Certainly there have been publications, as you mentioned Carla, on COVID.

Q: Given the rise in pharmacies as a major place of immunizations given nationally, what policies govern immunization reporting to ensure capture? We have noticed within our HHS region that some health system pharmacies are not reporting within-season vaccinations given, which hampers our ability to verify self-reported vaccinations for respiratory virus surveillance.

Carla Black (CDC): Unfortunately, there's not a national reporting system for vaccinations, or we wouldn't have to cobble together these surveys and claims data and IIS data. I assume you're probably referring to IIS data and, as you said, the laws vary by state. As far as I know, the pharmacies should comply with any of the same laws that providers do. But, unfortunately, in most states, even those that have rules for reporting, there's not a lot of teeth for enforcing. So, unfortunately, we don't have complete reporting to most IIS.

L.J Tan (Immunize): Thank you, Carla, but I have to say because of COVID we are better than we would be. So, so slow and steady steps.

Mitch Rothholz (Three-C Consulting Group): In most states pharmacists are the largest reporters of IIS data.

Q: For Kayla: In regards to ‘Not worried about flu,’ is it not worried about catching flu or not worried about the effects from getting influenza, or both?

Kayla Calhoun (CDC): So their exact response option was, “I am not concerned about getting the flu.” So I guess that could kind of encompass both of those things. We are going to try to tease that out a little more for this next season. And in June, we're going to have a follow-up to these concerns and issues questions and ask about reasons for non-vaccinations (as we're now at the end of the season) and try to match up the response options across vaccines better. So we'll try to tease that out better with those questions.