



National Influenza Vaccine Summit

Influenza Activity Spotlights

Friday, October 15, 2010

Issue #6

Professional Medical Organizations

Please disseminate widely to all of your members.

1. A free webinar, entitled “Reaching Minority and Vulnerable Populations: Getting Ahead of the Curve to Prevent Seasonal Flu,” was held on October 6. The webinar was sponsored by the HHS Office of Minority Health and can be viewed [here](#).
2. [Taiwan news reports](#) state that a 2-month old child contracted influenza A from his father. This is yet another reminder that vaccinating the direct contacts of those under 6 months of age is a major tool in the protection of infants too young to be vaccinated.
3. The Flu Vaccine Finder [tool](#) is now live and will assist the public in locating influenza vaccination clinics. The Finder helps participants search for clinics in or near a particular zip code.

Listing your clinic: If you would like to list your clinic in the Flu Vaccine Finder, please visit the American Lung Association’s [website](#) for details.

Adding the tool to your website: Lastly, a [free widget](#) is available for organizations and agencies that would like to display the Flu Vaccine Finder on their website. A widget is an application that displays the featured content directly on personalized home pages, blogs, and other sites. After embedding the widget using the code provided, no maintenance is required. Flu.gov and CDC will update the content automatically.

4. Novartis has announced a partnership with Craig Ventner’s Synthetic Genomics Vaccines to use an established bank of synthetic influenza viruses to speed up seasonal vaccine production. The news report can be read [here](#).
5. The U.S. Department of Health and Human Services’ Biomedical Advanced Research Development Authority has announced a new contract with sanofi pasteur worth \$57 million to help safeguard the United States in the case of a pandemic influenza outbreak. A news story can be read [here](#).
6. A new survey released by the National Foundation for Infectious Diseases indicates that most physicians were vaccinated against influenza last season and more intend to receive, or already have received, influenza vaccination this season. This survey, released at the October 7 Annual Influenza and Pneumococcal Press Conference, indicated that 92% of physicians were vaccinated against seasonal influenza last year, and 95% say they have been or plan to get vaccinated this year. However, the survey suggests only 39% of primary care physicians and 75% of pediatricians know that the influenza vaccine is not recommended for children younger than 6 months of age, and only 65% of physicians know that the vaccine now is recommended for all healthy adults aged 18 to 49 years. For the complete story, go [here](#); and here is an example of the [press coverage](#).

7. The NFID Annual Influenza and Pneumococcal News Conference attracted significant media attention with over 20 original news stories issued and 280 broadcast segments aired. Additionally, the NFID news conference press release was picked up by over 200 online outlets. Original articles have been published in over 100 online and print outlets. Media coverage included *Reuters*, *Wall Street Journal*, *WebMD*, *Bloomberg*, *NPR*, *HealthDay* and *CIDRAP*. Broadcast segments were aired by CBS, NBC, ABC, FOX and C-SPAN, which broadcast the news conference live and is featured on its online digital archive.

Panelists at the news conference included CDC Director, Thomas Frieden, MD, as keynote speaker; Deputy Director, CDC Influenza Division, Daniel Jernigan, MD; Immediate Past-President, American Academy of Pediatrics, Judith S. Palfrey, MD; ACIP Liaison Representative from the American Pharmacists Association, Stephan L. Foster, Pharm.D; and NFID President, William Schaffner, MD as moderator. Demonstrating their strong support of the new universal influenza vaccination recommendation were representatives from several leading medical and public health groups, including American Medical Association, National Influenza Vaccine Summit, AARP, American College of Obstetricians and Gynecologists, Indian Health Service, and National Medical Association.

This news event also helped to facilitate communications among the immunization community. In addition to media attendance, there were 100 participants who listened in via webcast/telephone, including representatives from state and local health departments. Several public health experts have already notified us that they are using this information for their local outreach. The news conference can also be viewed at www.visualwebcaster.com/NFID2010-NewsConference.

8. CDC has confirmed the 2009 H1N1 vaccine coverage [results](#), first released in April, reiterating that 27% of Americans, or 80.8 million people, had received a dose of 2009 H1N1 vaccine by the end of February, with coverage varying widely from state to state. For the seasonal vaccine, the CDC estimates that national coverage for all people ages 6 months and older was 41.2%. For full coverage, go [here](#) and [here](#).
9. The Vaccine and Treatment Evaluation Unit (established by the NIH) at St. Louis University has announced that they will be looking at the appropriate doses of influenza vaccine for children. See a media report [here](#).
10. The Influenza Vaccine Availability Tracking System (IVATS) spreadsheet continues to be updated weekly. Summit members can access the spreadsheet by going to www.preventinfluenza.org/ivats.
11. A Canadian vaccine firm – Medicago – has been awarded \$946,000 in funding from PATH as part of a research collaboration between the organizations to develop a broad-coverage influenza vaccine for the developing world, based on Medicago's plant leaf production system and virus-like particle (VLP) vaccine technology. For more on the story, go [here](#).
12. Orders can still be submitted for the Summit's influenza and pneumococcal vaccine pocket guides. Please go to the Summit's webpage at www.preventinfluenza.org/nivs.asp and orders can be placed by going to the link (image of the influenza pocket guide) in the left-hand bar; or go directly to www.immunize.org/pocketguides.