



# National Influenza Vaccine Summit

## *Influenza Activity Spotlights*

Monday, February 20, 2012

Issue #15

---

**Professional Medical Organizations**  
**Please disseminate widely to all of your members.**

**NOTE:** There will be **NO** National Influenza Vaccine Summit Call on Thursday, February 23, 2012 due to the Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices (ACIP) meeting. The weekly surveillance report will be distributed via the regular Summit eUpdate.

1. **NIVS Call Summary** - The National Influenza Vaccine Summit call scheduled for February 16, 2012 was cancelled.
2. **The CDC/Influenza Division Weekly Influenza Surveillance Report** for week 6, 2012 (ending February 11, 2012) is available [here](#). This site also includes maps of ILINet State Activity and the [geographic spread](#) of influenza illness as reported by state and territorial epidemiologists. Influenza activity in the United States continued to increase during this week, with the percent of respiratory specimens testing positive for influenza above 10% for the second consecutive week. CDC's key seasonal influenza points for February 17 are available [here](#), and [archives](#) of previous *FluViews* also are available.

### 3. Latest Influenza Information from CDC

Two items of interest have been posted to the CDC influenza [website](#).

- The final [report](#) of the total number of doses of influenza vaccine distributed in the 2011-2012 season
- *Have You Heard?* [report](#) indicating the United States is seeing its latest influenza season in nearly three decades and noting that it is "Still Not too Late to Vaccinate."

### 4. Call for 2012 NIVS Immunization Excellence Awards Nominations - Deadline March 2, 2012

Nominations are being accepted through March 2 for the 2012 *NIVS Immunization Excellence Awards*. **Summit partners are asked to disseminate the following information as widely as possible.**

The National Influenza Vaccine Summit is soliciting nominations for the 2012 *NIVS Immunization Excellence Awards*. Nominations close on March 2. These awards recognize individuals and organizations that have made extraordinary contributions towards improved adult and/or childhood influenza vaccination rates within their communities during the 2011-2012 influenza season. A national winner and honorable mention recipient will be selected for each of the four award categories listed below. Winners will be presented their awards at the National Influenza Vaccine Summit in Atlanta on May 15–17 and will be invited to provide a presentation to Summit attendees.

The *Immunization Excellence Awards* provide recognition in four categories:

- **Overall Season Activities** (activities related to early season and later season);
- **Healthcare Personnel Campaign** (community and/or institutional-based activities);
- **Immunization Coalitions/Public Health Community Campaign** (programs conducted within states and communities that demonstrate strong public and private collaboration); and
- **Corporate Campaign** (programs developed by communication/public relations organizations and/or supported by manufacturers, distributors or other for profit entities, such as multi-practice site companies.)

Click [here](#) to access complete information about the awards and the online nomination form.

#### **5. In Spain, non-hospital resources, the highest health cost of 2009 H1N1 influenza**

A [study](#) by the Healthcare Services Research Group at the IMIM (Hospital del Mar Research Institute) has studied the per-patient costs associated with the pandemic influenza virus type H1N1, also called influenza A, from 2009. Spain recorded nearly 1.5 million outpatient cases of influenza A, which entailed a cost of €940/patient, and only 3,025 hospitalizations, representing an average of €6,236/patient.

#### **6. Connecticut Recommends Expanding Immunization Coverage**

Gov. Dannel P. Malloy is recommending that Connecticut's universal [immunization program](#) be expanded to include three new childhood vaccines required for daycare and pre-kindergarten enrollment. In his revised budget the governor proposes to allocate an additional \$11.7 million in new funding to add hepatitis A, pneumococcal conjugate and influenza vaccines to the program.

#### **7. Modeling Predicts School Closures during a Pandemic will Decrease Transmission**

School closures were associated with reduced transmission of infectious disease and should be considered as a control measure during pandemic influenza, according to [study](#) results published in the *Annals of Internal Medicine*. Researchers from the Alberta Provincial Laboratory for Public Health designed mathematical transmission models comparing pH1N1 cases against school calendars and weather patterns. According to study results, incidence of pH1N1 declined sharply when schools closed, suggesting that reducing contact between school-age children would reduce transmission rates. A news article about the study is available [here](#).

#### **8. GIS Technology Plays Important Role to Map Disease and Health Trends**

As detailed in a recent [article](#), thanks to the advancements in geographic information systems (GIS) technologies and mapping applications like ArcGIS, health organizations worldwide are mapping disease and sickness trends in an effort to treat them locally and globally. The World Health Organization maintains an updated influenza map that shows Asia and Africa are at greater risk from

the spread of flu. Other organizations (e.g., [Health-Mapping.com](http://Health-Mapping.com)) keep up-to-the-minute, data-filled maps that cover water and health, influenza and malaria.

#### **9. Research Suggests Influenza May Boost Alzheimer's Risk**

Viruses such as influenza and herpes may leave brain cells vulnerable to degeneration later in life and increase the risk of developing diseases such as Alzheimer's and Parkinson's, research suggests. In the February 15, 2012 [issue](#) of *Science Translational Medicine*, investigators suggest that these the viruses can enter the brain and trigger an immune response — inflammation — which can damage brain cells, leading to future risk for Alzheimer's disease. A news [article](#) providing additional information is available.

#### **10. Summit Web site Offers Wonderful Resources on Influenza Vaccination!**

Remember to visit the Summit [website](#) for the latest on influenza immunization resources, as well as archival copies of the weekly newsletters!