



National Influenza Vaccine Summit

Influenza Activity Spotlights

Monday, March 5, 2012

Issue #17

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

NOTE: There will be no National Influenza Vaccine Summit Call on Thursday, March 8, 2012. The next call will take place on **March 15, 2012**.

1. Summary of the March 1, 2012 National Influenza Vaccine Summit Call

Opening Announcements - L.J Tan welcomed Summit partners and thanked them for their many efforts to increase influenza vaccination. He also reminded call participants that two *eUpdates* were distributed last week, both of which contained information about the May Summit meeting. Persons should check these *eUpdates* for information including the meeting agenda, registration materials, and hotel reservation website. LJ encouraged participants to book their hotel rooms soon, before the reduced rates available for the NIVS block of rooms expires.

Influenza Surveillance Update – Scott Epperson from CDC reported that all routine surveillance indicators remain below baseline levels. There have been a low number of influenza-related medical visits and deaths, but an increasing number of specimens are being submitted. Although some states have reported increases in ILI, low activity remains across the country as a whole. To date there have been three laboratory-confirmed pediatric deaths, with 1 reported as type A and 2 as type B. To help put this low level of activity into perspective, Scott noted that last season by this time over 32,000 specimens had tested positive and over 800 viruses had been characterized to determine their match with vaccine types. In contrast, this year there have been only 4,000 specimens tested and 400 viruses characterized. Scott emphasized that some communities have experienced increasing levels of disease, but this is not widespread across the country as we typically would expect in February. However, he noted there is still time for influenza levels to increase; the virus circulates throughout the year, and in past years we have seen substantial levels all the way into May. Call participants asked about recent media reports speculating about a potential relationship between low levels of influenza during an *El Nino* year. Scott stated that the correlation between weather and influenza has been a topic of discussion. For example, viruses survive better in low humidity, and increased crowding occurs during periods of cold weather. But we also need to consider that we've now had several seasons during which similar strains have circulated, and many persons have been vaccinated. It is likely many complex factors go into the timing and severity of the influenza season. The most current information on the 2011–2012 season continues to be available on the CDC influenza [website](#).

ACIP Influenza Overview - Lisa Grohskopf with CDC provided a brief summary of the influenza discussion from the February ACIP meeting. She noted that this was a relatively brief and uneventful session, as no changes to the recommendations were being made and no issues were up for a vote. Rather, the meeting consisted of a surveillance overview and a reiteration of the current recommendations. In preparation for the June ACIP meeting, the Influenza Workgroup will begin undertaking a review of available evidence using the GRADE (Grading of Recommendations, Assessment, Development and Evaluation) system. The ACIP will consider additional recommendations (if any) at the June meeting.

Schedule for Future Calls - LJ reminded participants that the NIVS calls are have moved to an every other week schedule. The next regular call will take place on **Thursday, March 15 at 3 p.m. Eastern.**

2. The CDC Influenza Division Weekly Influenza Surveillance Report for Week 8, 2012 (ending February 25, 2012) is available [here](#). This site also includes maps of the ILINet State Activity Level and the [geographic spread](#) of influenza illness as reported by state and territorial epidemiologists. CDC's seasonal influenza key points for March 2 are available [here](#). **Influenza activity in the United States is increasing.** [Archives](#) of previous *FluViews* also are available.

3. Latest Influenza Information

from CDC:

Influenza Vaccination Coverage Among Pregnant Women — 29 States and New York City, 2009–10 Season

[Morbidity and Mortality Weekly Report \(MMWR\)](#), February 24, 2012

from Pediatrics:

Various influenza topics published online in *Pediatrics* Journal [Supplement](#), March 2012, Volume 129. (subscription required for full text)

4. MedImmune Announces FDA Approval of Quadrivalent LAIV — To Replace Trivalent LAIV in the 2013–2014 Influenza Season

MedImmune's quadrivalent LAIV (containing two type B strains) will be released for the 2013–2014 influenza season. MedImmune plans a complete conversion by the 2013–2014 season to totally replace the current trivalent LAIV. A MedImmune [press release](#) includes the expected launch timing of the 2013–2014 season in the United States. The FDA press release about the approval is available [here](#).

5. GSK Announces Submissions for Two Influenza Vaccines

GSK has submitted regulatory files for a two influenza [vaccines](#) (a quadrivalent vaccine and an H5N1 vaccine) currently in development.

6. ONLINE REGISTRATION for the National Influenza Vaccine Summit (NIVS) and the National Adult Immunization Summit (NAIS) is NOW AVAILABLE!

[Online registration](#) for the NIVS and NAIS is now available. Persons planning to attend are asked to register online before April 27, 2012. On-site registration will be available after that date.

Hotel Registration - The meeting will be held at the J.W. Marriott Atlanta Buckhead located at 3300 Lenox Road, Atlanta, GA 30326. Participants may reserve a hotel room by visiting the J.W. Marriott Atlanta Buckhead [website](#) or by contacting the hotel directly at (800) 228-9290. The negotiated rate is \$149/night (single/double) and is valid until April 20, 2012. The Group Code for this rate is **fluflua**. The room rate is \$133/night for persons traveling on a government *per diem*. Federal employees will need to call the hotel to make reservations.

A **Draft Agenda** for both meetings and additional information is available [here](#).

7. Summit Website Offers Wonderful Resources on Influenza Vaccination!

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