



National Influenza Vaccine Summit

Influenza Activity Spotlights

Monday, July 16, 2012

Issue #21

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

Note: As a reminder, Summit calls are scheduled every other week until the start of the influenza season, when weekly calls will resume. The next Summit call is scheduled for July 26, 2012.

1. Summary of the June 22, 2012 National Influenza Vaccine Summit Call

Opening Announcements – L.J Tan opened the call by announcing that Executive Summaries from the recent National Influenza Vaccine Summit and National Adult Immunization Summit should be available shortly and will be shared with Summit partners as soon as they are available.

ACIP Update: Vaccine Safety - Tom Shimabukuro (CDC)

Dr. Shimabukuro reviewed the influenza vaccine safety monitoring [slides](#) which he had presented at this week's ACIP meeting. VAERS data mining from the 2010-2011 influenza season indicated an increased risk in febrile seizures in children 6-23 months of age following receipt of TIV and PCV13 given concomitantly. The peak risk difference was 45/100,000, which translates to 1 additional seizure for every 2,200 given. No policy change was recommended. Disproportionate reporting for febrile seizures continued to be observed in the 2011-2012 season. However, this was not unexpected; there was no formulation change in 2011-2012, and reporting could have been stimulated due to increased discussion about this issue. No increased risk of seizures was observed in children 24-59 months of age. No elevated risk of Guillain-Barré syndrome (GBS) following influenza vaccination was observed in either of the last 2 seasons. A review of the 2009 H1N1 vaccine and GBS indicated a small, statistically significant increased risk in some (but not all) surveillance systems, with a risk of 1-2 per million doses. However, this was substantially lower than the risk observed following the 1976 swine influenza vaccine. Recommendations for egg allergic patients were updated in 2011-2012, but no disproportionate reporting for allergy or anaphylaxis following influenza vaccine was found in VAERS. One report of anaphylaxis following receipt of LAIV was received, but this case, which occurred in an individual with known food allergies but who had eaten eggs that morning, appeared to be unrelated to the updated recommendation. Six hundred VAERS reports were received in 2011-2012 following receipt of high dose TIV, which was similar to the prior year. During its first season of use, intradermal TIV resulted in 51 VAERS reports, and no safety concerns were identified.

ACIP Update: Vaccine Recommendations - Lisa Grohskopf (CDC)

Dr. Grohskopf provided a brief overview of the material which will be covered in the 2012-2013 influenza vaccine statement. In addition to this year's strain selection, the publication will reiterate the recommendation that all persons ≥ 6 months of age should receive an annual influenza vaccine. A brief summary describing the investigation of febrile seizures in young children will be included. The document also will acknowledge FDA approval of quadrivalent influenza vaccine, but this is unlikely to be available during the upcoming season. The statement will include an ACIP-approved algorithm for children to receive 2 doses of influenza vaccine during their 1st season in order to assure development of an adequate immune response. The ACIP recommendation will not take into account influenza vaccine received prior to the 2010-2011 season. If a child has not received 2 doses of vaccine since 2010 or the vaccine history is unknown, he/she should receive 2 doses. Additional language in the text will indicate that providers also may consider a dose of 2009 H1N1 if a reliable history is available. The release dates for the VIS and the *MMWR* influenza statement are unknown, but it is anticipated these will be forthcoming relatively quickly. Dr. Tan will update Summit partners as additional information becomes available. At this point it does not appear that manufacturers are experiencing production difficulties with 2012-2013 vaccine.

MedImmune Patient Education Web Portal - Christeen Moburg (MedImmune)

Ms. Moburg provided an [overview](#) of MedImmune's patient education materials [website](#). This website, which was initiated in 2009 to provide information about premature infants, now includes influenza information. Access to the site is limited to health professionals who have obtained a log-in code from an organization to which they belong. NACCHO, Families Fighting Flu, the National Association of School-Based Health, and NAPNAP are among the organizations that have registered with MedImmune so that their members may place orders for these materials. Currently four topics are available: *Help Protect Yourself and Your Family from the Flu*; *Understand the Facts about Influenza*; *Influenza Vaccines for Healthcare Workers*; and *The Importance of the Flu Vaccine for School-Aged Children*. The documents are written at a third grade level and are available in both English and Spanish. Packs of 25 may be ordered free of charge, and organizations also may post PDFs of the documents for their members. Other membership-based organizations wishing to participate in the program may contact [Ms. Moberg](#).

Immunize Nevada's text4baby Campaign Mayors and Mommies Month 2012 – Katie Nannini (Immunize Nevada), Scott Walquist (KPS3 Marketing), and Julia Kruper (KPS3 Marketing)

Immunize Nevada implemented a statewide project to promote [text4baby](#), a nationally-based free mobile outreach program targeting pregnant women and new mothers with relevant information about their child's health, including immunizations. Immunize Nevada asked advertising agency KPS3 to help develop an effective campaign to promote text4baby to as many mothers in the state as possible. Because Nevada contains many rural communities spread throughout a large area, a unique campaign was needed. Because each community has a mayor, it was decided to tie the campaign to mayors. Nevada's First Lady, Kathleen Sandoval, became a champion for the project and wrote letters to mayors asking for their support in their local communities. Eleven mayors participated in the project, and 8 proclaimed April as "Mayors and Mommies Month." PSAs and media kits also were distributed, and new webpages were created for the mayors and healthcare providers. By the end of the campaign on Mothers' Day, more than 4,000 new text4baby users had been added across the state. Because text4baby is a national campaign, Immunize Nevada does not have the ability to interact directly with participants and evaluate the effectiveness of the messages. However, the national organization is able to cater some messages to participants by zip code. For example, messages have been sent to inform participants that pertussis has been confirmed in their area and suggesting they be sure their child's immunizations are up to date.

2. Summary of the July 12, 2012 National Influenza Vaccine Summit Call

NFID's Influenza Press Conference - Len Novick (NFID)

For the last 16 years, NFID has conducted a news conference at the National Press Club in Washington which serves as a kickoff for the fall influenza season. This year's event is scheduled for Thursday, September 27 at 10AM ET. Dr. Tom Frieden will serve as the keynote speaker for the event. Specifics are not yet available for other presenters, but these individuals will be selected to represent the main targeted influenza vaccine groups, including mothers to be, health care professionals, and older Americans. Dr. Tan noted that the Summit has been a partner in supporting this event for many years.

Mr. Novick also discussed a Flu Awareness Night that will be occurring at the Washington Nationals Park on Friday, September 21. In addition to the availability of a block of tickets, the Nationals are providing table space for distribution of influenza materials, and they will be showing a PSA about influenza on the Jumbotron before the game. Information about this opportunity is available at the websites for [NFID](#) or the [Washington Nationals](#).

Coverage Data Publication Update - Carolyn Bridges (CDC)

Dr. Bridges noted that, in conjunction with the NFID press conference, CDC will release updated influenza data on pregnant women and healthcare personnel. The publication also will include the final data from the BRFSS and the National Immunization Survey for children. Dr. Tan suggested that the weekly NIVS call during the week of the press conference may be delayed until Friday so that participants can receive an update on both the press conference and the CDC data.

Announcement - Litjen Tan (AMA)

Dr. Tan announced that the Virtual Immunization Communications Network (VIC Network) will be sponsoring a webinar entitled "Influenza Outlook: Strategies and Plans for the 2012-2013 Flu Season." Speakers for the event are NCIRD's Lisa Grohskopf, Teresa Smith, and Yvonne Garcia. The webinar is scheduled for July 25 at 11 a.m. Pacific Time. Registration information is available [here](#).

3. **The CDC/Influenza Division Weekly Influenza Surveillance Report** ending week 27 (ending July 7, 2012) is available [here](#). This site also includes maps of the ILINET State Activity Indicator level and the [geographic spread](#) as reported by state and territorial epidemiologists. This map indicates geographic spread of influenza viruses, but it does not measure the intensity of influenza activity. When new CDC seasonal influenza key points are available, they will be provided here. Archives of previous *FluViews* are [available](#).

Additional information from CDC:

- On June 21, 2012, CDC updated [information](#) regarding avian influenza and highly pathogenic H5N1 viruses. These updates include information about the current avian influenza situation, past outbreaks in North America, H5N1 in birds and other mammals, and H5N1 virus infections in people, including the prevention and treatment of avian influenza viruses in people.
- CDC has posted the [H5N1 Genetic Changes Inventory](#). The inventory is intended as a tool to help those conducting influenza surveillance and research identify genetic changes in naturally-occurring avian influenza (H5N1) viruses.
- The [CDC Resources for Pandemic Flu site](#) has been updated to include information about the [Influenza Risk Assessment Tool \(IRAT\)](#). The IRAT is being developed to help assess the threat of influenza viruses with pandemic potential.

4. Sanofi Pasteur Begins Shipping Fluzone® Influenza Virus Vaccine in U.S. for 2012-2013 Season

Sanofi Pasteur, the vaccines division of Sanofi, [announced](#) that the first lots of Fluzone vaccine began shipping to U.S. health care providers following Food and Drug Administration (FDA) licensure of the 2012-2013 formulation.

5. From PRO-MED, July 2012: Australia and New Zealand having a serious influenza season. Is this a predictor for the upcoming US season?

A [report](#) from PRO-MED states that, according to the trans-Tasman Influenza Specialist Group (ISG), hospital admissions for flu-like symptoms have more than doubled around the nation. The influenza season is hitting Australia especially hard, with twice the number of diagnosed cases and hospital admissions, according to experts.

Experts are warning that the influenza virus has hit Australia especially hard this season and the worst is yet to come. More than 5,000 cases of the potentially deadly H3N2 and type B strains were recorded nationally in June 2012 -- almost double the number as at the same time last year -- with thousands more cases expected to go undiagnosed.

So far this year (2012), 9,034 influenza cases have been diagnosed nationwide, with Queensland, New South Wales (NSW) and South Australia the worst affected. Queensland has had 2,536 recorded flu cases, NSW 2,391, and SA 1,715, made worse by the fact that 98 per cent of the southern state's flu cases have been the more serious H3N2 strain. Other states have also "gone viral," with 979 flu cases recorded in Western Australia, 971 in Victoria, 187 in the Northern Territory, 177 in the ACT and 87 in Tasmania.

ISG chairman Alan Hampson said the fact that the H3N2 strain hadn't been prominent in Australia for several years could increase this season's severity. "When we see high levels of H3N2, which is the predominant strain this season, there is significant impact, especially in high-risk groups," Dr Hampson said. "Typically, we can expect to see more deaths and hospital admissions."

Dr Hampson said children under 9 had been hardest hit, while the elderly were particularly vulnerable if they had not received their flu shots this season. While most people over 65 had been inoculated, only half of at-risk people aged 15-64 had been jabbed. And for those who think they're doing right by going to work with the flu, Dr Hampson has just one word of advice: don't. "Our latest survey revealed 90 per cent of Australians are soldiering on when sick, risking their health and potentially the lives of those around them," he said. "If you have flu symptoms, we strongly advise you stay home from work or social situations to prevent your colleagues, friends and family from catching the virus and to also aid your recovery." So if you're sick, you should be reading this at home.

New Zealand health officials also are reporting dramatic [increases](#) in the number of influenza cases and in severity of disease.

6. Virtual Immunization Communication Network (VICNetwork) Announces Webinar on Influenza

On July 25, 2012 the VICNetwork will sponsor a webinar, *Influenza Outlook: Strategies and Plans for the 2012-13 Flu Season*. This training session will feature three great presenters from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention who will provide updates on the upcoming flu season, share campaign plans for promotion efforts during the 2012-13 influenza vaccination season, and discuss opportunities for maximizing traditional and new media to share information about influenza vaccination activities and messaging. Registration for the webinar is available [here](#).

7. Influenza H1N1 Vaccine with Adjuvant Safe for Pregnant Women

Infants born to pregnant women who were administered inactivated AS03-adjuvanted split virion influenza vaccine (Pandemrix) in Denmark during the H1N1 pandemic were not at increased risk for major birth defects or smaller than average size for gestational age, Björn Pasternak, MD, PhD, from the Statens Serum Institute in Copenhagen, Denmark, and colleagues [reported](#) in the *Journal of the American Medical Association*.

8. Study Flags Drop in Antivirals for Hospitalized Flu Patients

Researchers following recent antiviral trends in the United States have found a troubling drop in the use of the drugs for treating hospitalized patients with lab-confirmed flu, especially children. Additional information is available at [CIDRAP](#).

9. 2012-2013 Influenza Vaccine Information Statements (VIS) are Now Available

The TIV (regular and large print editions) and LAIV influenza [vaccine information statements](#) were recently updated. RTF files are also available. All are dated 7/2/2012. These editions have been converted to the updated VIS format, but the text in both VISs is identical to that in last year's influenza VISs. Note that there will be minor updates in the ACIP influenza recommendations, but these do not affect the VIS language. To avoid confusion, please switch to the 2012-13 VISs, even though the language hasn't changed.

10. International Federation of Pharmaceutical Manufacturers Association (IFPMA) Influenza Vaccine Task Force – New Toolkit Available

The final IVS Seasonal Influenza Vaccination [Toolkit](#) includes seven [factsheets](#) which focus on key topics relating to influenza and its impact on public health:

- Public Health Benefits of Immunization
- Influenza Risk Groups
- Economic Benefits of Immunization
- Benefits of Healthcare Worker Immunization
- Improving Pandemic Preparedness
- Effective Immunization Policies
- Campaigns Around the World

The kit has been developed to encourage and support local advocacy efforts by national industry associations and member companies around seasonal influenza and its inclusion in public health planning. ***In this regard, please use and share the kit with respective colleagues and stakeholders.***

11. American Society of Health-Systems Pharmacists Creates Portal for Improving Adult Immunizations in Hospitals

The ASHP has launched a new [initiative](#) to improve adult immunizations being given in hospitals. The organization has created a new [website](#) to serve as a one-stop resource for tools and strategies to support this effort. For more information, please contact [Shekhar Mehta](#), Director, Clinical Guidelines and Quality Improvement at ASHP.

12. CDC Telebriefing: Pertussis Epidemic in Washington State - 2012

In conjunction with the release of a *MMWR* [article](#), CDC held a press briefing on July 19 to discuss the ongoing pertussis epidemic in Washington State. Speakers for the briefing were Dr. Anne Schuchat, Director, National Center for Immunization and Respiratory Diseases, and Mary Selecky, Secretary, Washington State Department of Health. A [transcript](#) of the press conference is available.

13. 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!