



## ***Influenza Activity Spotlight***

**2012–2013 Season**

**Issue #20 — April 29, 2013**

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**Reminder:** Summit calls are scheduled weekly every Thursday at 3 p.m. ET, unless cancelled. **Please email [L.J Tan](#) or [LaDora Woods](#) if you have any updates on activities to provide to the Summit.**

**SAVE THE DATE!** The National Influenza Vaccine Summit (NIVS) will be meeting in conjunction with the National Adult Immunization Summit on May 14–16, 2013 in Atlanta, Georgia. Registration for the event and for the rooming block will be closing on April 30. For details and information on how to register for the meeting, contact [LaDora Woods](#) or [L.J Tan](#).

### **1. Summary of the National Influenza Vaccine Summit Call – 4/18/2013**

#### **Announcement – L.J Tan (IAC)**

L.J reminded participants that registration for the National Adult and Influenza Immunization Summit will close at the end of the month. The registration site ([www.preventinfluenza.org/register](http://www.preventinfluenza.org/register)) includes a link to the rooming block at the Hyatt Regency Hotel. Persons who have not already registered should do so as soon as possible.

#### **Influenza Surveillance and H7N9 Update – Scott Epperson (CDC)**

Scott reported that, while seasonal influenza surveillance indicators continue to decline, there is still some influenza occurring. Influenza now is below baseline levels, and the number of newly reported cases continues to decrease. Unfortunately, CDC is still receiving reports of deaths in children. On April 19 CDC announced 10 new pediatric deaths, bringing this year's total number of pediatric deaths this influenza season to 126. This is significant as it is the highest number of lab-confirmed influenza deaths since the condition in children became a nationally notifiable disease in 2004, excluding the 2009 pandemic year. Scott reminded us that in the severe season in 2003, there 153 pediatric deaths. Although these pediatric deaths have been associated with all influenza types and subtypes, the most recent pediatric deaths have been mainly due to influenza B. Type B currently is the predominant strain nationally and in the majority of the regions. Scott did not have information on the vaccination status of the children reported as pediatric deaths. The latest seasonal influenza information will be posted [here](#).

There have been no cases of H7N9 in the U.S. so far. CDC has received reports of suspect cases, but testing indicated these were not H7N9, but appeared to be traditional seasonal influenza or other respiratory viruses. At the time of the call, cases of H7N9 were only reported from China, but there now are reports of cases being detected in Taiwan. The number of affected provinces in China has expanded from 4 to 6. One province is adjacent to Shanghai, but the other new province is Beijing, which is geographically quite removed from Shanghai. There are 104 cases, with 21 deaths from H7N9 in China thus far. The majority of cases remain in persons >65 years of age. Information is not available on the vaccination status of the cases or a history of exposure to animals. No human-to-human transmission has been reported. The China CDC is expanding surveillance for acute respiratory infections. Several species of birds have tested positive for H7N9, and all live animal markets have been closed in the region.

CDC is currently developing a vaccine virus based on shipped virus from China, developing PCR primers to create a diagnostic toolkit, and establishing strategic methods to detect H7N9. CDC has also initiated studies to better understand the biology of H7N9 virus and to investigate its susceptibility to antivirals. The agency has sent a small team to China to support the ongoing work there. CDC continues to produce and release guidance documents, including [antiviral guidance](#) which was posted on April 18.

- 2. The CDC/Influenza Division Weekly Influenza Surveillance Report** for week 16 (ending April 20, 2013) is available [here](#). Of 3,384 specimens tested and reported by U.S. World Health Organization (WHO) and National Respiratory and Enteric Virus Surveillance System (NREVSS) collaborating laboratories in week 16, 250 (7.4%) were positive for influenza. The proportion of outpatient visits for influenza-like illness (ILI) was 1.1%. This is below the national baseline of 2.2%. All 10 regions reported ILI below region-specific baseline levels. One state experienced low activity, 49 states and New York City experienced minimal activity, and the District of Columbia had insufficient data. This site also includes maps of ILINet State Activity Levels and the [geographic spread](#) of influenza illness as reported by state and territorial epidemiologists. This map indicates geographic spread of influenza viruses but does not measure the intensity of influenza activity. CDC's [H7N9 Key Points](#) were released on April 26, 2013. Archives of previous *FluViews* may be found [here](#).

### 3. Information from CDC

On April 26 CDC posted a [Flu Spotlight: H7N9 Update; CDC Pandemic Preparedness Activities Progress](#).

On April 19 CDC posted [Interim Recommendations: Prevention and Control of Influenza with Vaccines: Recommendations of the Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices \(ACIP\), 2013](#), which includes information on influenza vaccines in the United States for the 2013–2014 season.

The final issue of CDC's [Seasonal Influenza Key Points](#) for the 2012–2013 season was published on April 19. These will no longer be released on a fixed schedule for the rest of the season, but will be issued as warranted, such as in conjunction with the release of important publications or guidance or unexpected increases in flu activity. H7N9 Influenza Key points will continue to be issued weekly unless the epidemiology of the outbreak changes. Reporting for the 2013–2014 influenza season will begin October 13, 2013 for Week 40 and will appear in *FluView*, the weekly surveillance report.

On April 19 CDC issued [H7N9 Flu and You](#), a Q&A document for the public.

CDC will provide updated information on the H7N9 situation as it becomes available [here](#), and additional H7N9 updates from the World Health Organization (WHO) are available [here](#).

### 4. Sign Up for Families Fighting Flu's Daily Flu News!

Please sign up for Families Fighting Flu's (FFF) *Daily Flu News* [here](#).

### 5. Recent H7N9 Media Reports

[Minister Cautious on H7N9's Impact](#) (Taipei Times)

H7N9 avian influenza could affect the retail and restaurant sectors — as well as the economy as a whole — if the virus becomes transmissible among humans, the Ministry of Economic Affairs said yesterday. If the bird flu became more serious and...

[\*\*An Update on Avian Influenza \(H7N9\)\*\*](#) (Sampson Independent)

I am sure most of you have heard about the H7N9 strain of avian influenza outbreak in China. As of April 16, 2013, there were 63 cases of humans contracting the disease resulting in 14 deaths. I hope the following information will calm your concerns.

[\*\*Kansas City, KS – What We Know About H7N9 Influenza\*\*](#) (ADVANCE)

There are no known cases of H7N9 also called avian influenza in the United States, but authorities want the public to be aware and vigilant about this new strain of flu that is spreading in China and now Taiwan that poses a pandemic threat.

[\*\*Hong Kong Tightens Bird Flu Defenses\*\*](#) (CNN International)

Officials wielding infrared thermometers are becoming more difficult to avoid at entry points from mainland China as Hong Kong strengthens its defenses against the H7N9 strain of bird flu. Extra measures are being taken this week...

[\*\*Hong Kong Steps Up Bird Flu Fight\*\*](#) (Wall Street Journal)

As floods of mainland Chinese tourists descend on Hong Kong over the Labor Day holiday this week, immigration and hospital officials are stepping up their efforts to fend off the spread of H7N9 bird flu, which last week surfaced outside China for the ...

[\*\*China H7N9 Bird Flu Cases Rise by Five; Four Provinces Report Illnesses in ...\*\*](#) (Forbes)

The number of confirmed H7N9 bird flu cases in mainland China rose by five on Sunday, the country's official Xinhua news agency reported. Four provinces — Zhejiang, Shandong, Jiangxi and Fujian — reported illnesses, the agency said.

[\*\*H7N9 Flu Prefers Men and Seniors, Now Up to 120 Cases\*\*](#) (Examiner.com)

Researchers have begun to agree that the new avian-human flu crossover, influenza A(H7N9), differs markedly in terms of human vulnerability from influenza A(H5N1), the other recent and lethal crossover avian virus. One hundred twenty cases of human...

[\*\*One More Henan H7N9 Patient Discharged from Hospital\*\*](#) (Xinhua)

A male H7N9 bird flu patient in Zhengzhou City in central China's Henan Province was discharged from hospital on Sunday afternoon following treatment. The 38-year-old surnamed Wang is the capital's first and Henan's ...

[\*\*More H7N9 Cases Reported in China\*\*](#) (People's Daily Online)

An 80-year-old man surnamed Xiong and a 31-year-old woman surnamed Xu in Jiangxi Province tested positive for H7N9 bird flu on Sunday as well, according to the provincial health department. Of the 19 people who had close contact with the two patients,...

[\*\*H7N9 Bird Flu Spreads to Central China's Hunan\*\*](#) (Zee News)

H7N9 bird flu spreads to central China's Hunan Shanghai: China's deadly outbreak of H7N9 bird flu has spread to the central province of Hunan, local health authorities said on Sunday, the third announcement in three days of a case in a new location.

[\*\*China's Hunan Added to Travel Alert List\*\*](#) (China Post)

TAIPEI – Hunan province has been added to a list of Chinese destinations subject to a Level-2 travel advisory issued by Taiwan over H7N9 bird flu concerns, increasing the number of Chinese cities and provinces on the list to ten. Hunan was put on the...

[\*\*Asia Bound? 5 Ways to Protect Yourself from Bird Flu\*\*](#) (Terra.com)

The H7N9 virus, commonly known as the "Asian bird flu", has sparked concern among business travelers going to Asia. China has reported 87 cases of human infection and 17 deaths, since the outbreak was first announced by the World Health Organization...

**[Steps Taken to Keep Out Avian Flu](#)** (Journal Online)

Earlier, precautionary measures were adopted at the Ninoy Aquino International Airport against the H7N9 strain of avian flu. The new strain has killed at least nine people since China announced its discovery in humans. Also, the DA had imposed a ...

**[H7N9 Prevention Intensified Body Temperature Checking System at Border Gates](#)** (Macau Daily Times)

It urges people to put on a surgical mask should they develop flu-like symptoms such as coughing and fever, and consult a doctor for treatment. The alert level for H7N9 remains at number three out of six. The MSAR government revealed that they would...

**[Talk of the Day – H7N9 Outbreak Affects Tourism to China](#)** (Focus Taiwan News Channel)

The outbreak of the deadly H7N9 avian flu virus in China has dampened the enthusiasm of Taiwanese to travel to China, especially after Taiwan confirmed its first case of the new avian flu strain earlier this week. Usually popular tours to areas south...

**[Premier Visits Lab Over H7N9 Control](#)** (China Daily)

Chinese Premier Li Keqiang visited the Chinese Center for Disease Control and Prevention (China CDC) on Sunday morning, calling for more efforts in fighting the new H7N9 bird flu and preventing epidemics in the country's quake-hit area.

**[H7N9 More Deadly than SARS: Experts](#)** (Taipei Times)

The H7N9 strain of avian influenza is more lethal than the coronavirus that caused the global SARS outbreak in 2003, a National Taiwan University Hospital doctor said. Citing a University of Hong Kong report, Huang Li-min (黃立民), head of the hospital...

**[H7N9 Vaccine Needs International Cooperation](#)** (VietNamNet Bridge)

Some countries started to develop bird flu vaccines three years ago, she said, adding that the WHO has organized nations to select from many candidate vaccines via network monitoring global laboratories. A total of 108 H7N9 cases have been reported in ...

**[H7N9 Bird Flu: Lancet Blames Poultry](#)** (The Australian)

Workers slaughter H5N1 infected poultry at a market in Hong Kong in 2008. Source: AP. CHINESE researchers have reportedly confirmed poultry as a source of H7N9 flu among humans but say they found no evidence of person-to-person transmission.

**[US Health Leader Warns of Human-to-Human H7N9 Bird Flu](#)** (AFP)

There is no evidence that the deadly H7N9 bird flu has yet spread between humans in China but health authorities must be ready for the virus to mutate at any time, a top US virologist has warned. Anthony Fauci, the head of the National...

**[H7N9 Close to Key Mutation](#)** (People's Daily Online)

Chinese scientists have discovered that a poultry wet market was likely the source for human infections with the avian influenza A H7N9 virus, and discovered the conditions under which the virus could eventually mutate to human-to-human transmissions.

**[US Virologist Urges Readiness for Cases of Human-to-Human H7N9 Avian Flu](#)** (Taipei Times)

There is no evidence that H7N9 avian influenza has yet spread between humans in China, but health authorities must be ready for the virus to mutate at any time, a top US virologist has warned. Anthony Fauci, the head of the US National Institute of...

**[Team of Chinese Scientists Investigate Source of H7N9 Virus](#)** (UPI.com)

Professor Chen Hualan and colleagues at the National Avian Influenza Reference Laboratory, State Key Laboratory of Veterinary Biotechnology, Harbin Veterinary Research Institute and Chinese Academy of Agricultural Sciences investigated the origins of...

[Health Briefs: AZ Requests Test Kits for Influenza Strain](#) (Arizona Daily Star)

In response to a new strain of influenza reported in China, the Arizona State Laboratory has ordered H7N9 influenza test kits from the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. China is continuing to...

## 6. Other Influenza-Related Media Reports

[New Treatment Clues for Fatal Combination of Flu and Bacterial Infection](#) (Science World Report)

It is known that being sick with influenza virus increases the susceptibility to bacterial infection which can have very serious implications, and it is actually the secondary infection that is the main cause of death for several hundred thousand ...

[New Treatment Options for Influenza](#) (News-Medical.net)

The flu is caused by an infection with the influenza virus, which mainly attacks the upper respiratory tract - the nose, throat and bronchi and rarely also the lungs. According to the World Health Organization (WHO), around five to 15 percent of the...

[Flu Activity Low, MidMichigan Employee Masking Rule is Lifted](#) (Midland Daily News)

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention continues to report low or minimal local flu activity in Michigan. Therefore, MidMichigan Health has lifted employee masking requirements throughout its medical centers and nursing homes. In December...

[Vaccinator Volunteers Protect Record Numbers from Flu](#) (Voxy)

This impressive level of protection is largely due to a new initiative carried out by a small group of Waikato DHB staff volunteers dubbed Ward Influenza Vaccination Champions. "This is the first year we have introduced the role. We have 18 volunteers,...

[Mandatory Influenza Testing for Hospital Personnel Enhances Patient Safety](#) (Infection Control Today)

As part of a comprehensive quality and patient safety program, a major national hospital network reported in the Journal of Healthcare Quality (JHQ) that more than 90 percent of its clinical personnel in the last three years received seasonal influenza ...

[Airport Exit Screenings More Effective in Assessing Pandemic Risk](#) (Healio)

During the influenza A(H1N1)pdm09 outbreak, international experts evaluated the performance of the 2005 International Health Regulations and cited the requirement for stronger evidence to validate public health measures that could disrupt international ...

## 7. FDA Announces New Strains for the 2013–2014 Influenza Vaccine

After a [meeting](#) (subscription required) held February 27, the Vaccines and Related Biological Products Advisory Committee to the US Food and Drug Administration (FDA) recommended that trivalent vaccines for the 2013–2014 season retain current vaccine strain *A/California/7/2009pdm09-like (2009 H1N1)* virus.

The committee also recommended replacing current vaccine strain *A/Victoria/361/2011 (H3N2)-like* virus with an A(H3N2) virus antigenically similar to the cell-propagated prototype virus *A/Victoria/361/2011 (A/Texas/50/2012)* and replacing current vaccine strain *B/Wisconsin/1/2010-like* virus with a *B/Massachusetts/2/2012-like (B/Yamagata lineage)* virus.

The committee also recommended that quadrivalent vaccines, which are expected to be available for the upcoming season, contain a B/Brisbane/60/2008-like (B/Victoria lineage) virus in addition to the viruses recommended for the trivalent vaccines.

## **8. Don't Forget to Update and Submit to the New Adult Vaccine Locator!**

The new Adult Vaccine Finder is now available! Please forward the following information to immunization providers with whom you work!

**Attention Immunization Providers:** If interested in letting the public know about vaccines offered at your practice or clinic, go to <http://vaccine.healthmap.org>. This site already includes more than 54,000 locations that provide flu shots and has provided this information to 500,000 users from the general public. On January 28, 2013, the site expanded to include 10 additional adult vaccines. If you want to register your location on this website, click on the "about" button on the top right hand side and follow the prompts to register, or go to <https://flushot.healthmap.org/admin/signup>.

## **9. Summit Website Offers Wonderful Resources on Influenza Vaccination!**

Remember to visit the Summit [website](#) for the latest on influenza immunization resources and to view archived copies of the weekly updates.