



Influenza Activity Spotlight

2013–2014 Season

Issue #1 — August 5, 2013

Reminder: Summit calls are scheduled weekly every Thursday at 3 p.m. ET, unless cancelled. The Summit anticipates that these conference calls will be returning to a regular weekly schedule as vaccine begins to be released by the FDA and distributed into the market. Please email [L.J Tan](#) or [LaDora Woods](#) if you have any updates on activities to provide to the Summit.

1. Follow-up on 2013 National Influenza Vaccine Summit Call Conducted on August 1, 2013

The call included substantial discussion about the latest VIS for influenza vaccine, particularly concerning the recombinant vaccine lack of egg content and the wording on the inactivated influenza vaccine VIS. This is now being discussed by CDC, which will notify the Summit when a decision has been made about whether to implement any changes for the 2013–2014 season. The current designation of term “interim” on the CDC VIS website does not indicate changes are planned. Partners should proceed as usual when planning pending vaccination campaigns.

Matthew Reynolds provided an update on the National Immunization Awareness Month (NIAM) activities for August. Of special note, Week Three is dedicated to adults. (Additional details are available below in item #4.)

- ## **2. The CDC/Influenza Division Weekly Influenza Surveillance Report for week 30 (ending July 27, 2013) is available [here](#).**
- Region specific data may be viewed [here](#). (Note: As part of summer reporting, an abbreviated version of *FluView* will be available each week.) According to the final *FluView* for the 2012–2013 season, U.S. influenza is at summertime levels in most of the country. However, sporadic activity can occur year-round, and vaccination is still recommended for institutional outbreak control; children needing their second dose; and some travelers going to the Southern Hemisphere, which soon will enter its influenza season. Compared to most previous seasons for which surveillance data are available, the [2012–2013 influenza season](#) started about 4 weeks early and was intense. An [Influenza Summary Update](#) of the influenza activity reported by state and territorial epidemiologists indicates the geographic spread of influenza viruses, but does not measure the intensity of influenza activity. Archives of previous *FluViews* are available [here](#).

3. Novel Influenza H3N2v Activity

One additional infection with influenza A (H3N2) variant (H3N2v) virus was reported to CDC during week 30 by Illinois. A total of 15 H3N2v cases have been reported this summer (Illinois [1], Indiana [13], and Ohio [1]). No hospitalizations or deaths have occurred. At this time no ongoing human-to-human transmission has been identified, and all 15 cases have reported close contact with swine in the week prior to illness onset. [Key points](#) on recent human infections with influenza H3N2 variant (H3N2v) virus infections in the United States were released by CDC on August 2.

4. More information from CDC

National Immunization Awareness Month (NIAM)

August is National Immunization Awareness Month (NIAM). NIAM is a grass-roots effort that highlights the importance of immunization for every age group. Each week during August is targeted for a different population:

- **Week 1:** Off to college (young adults)
- **Week 2:** Back to school (children)
- **Week 3:** Not just for kids (adults)
- **Week 4:** A healthy start (babies and pregnant women)

CDC is asking its partners to support NIAM by:

- Sharing the information with their networks and partners
- Tweet and post on their Twitter and Facebook accounts
- Place matte articles in their publications
- Engage the media, leverage their states and local SMEs to help tell the story of why immunizations are so important. NPHIC will be providing resources to help on the NIAM website.
- Ask their members who are immunization providers to [register](#)

A [toolkit](#) to help communicate the importance of immunizations contains multiple resources for each week during the month, including:

- Key messages
- Sample tweets and Face Book posts
- Sample news releases and articles
- Suggested events and strategies

Key messages for NIAM:

Week 1: Off to college (young adults)

- As kids get older, they are more at risk for catching diseases, like meningococcal meningitis, so they need protection that vaccines provide.
- Put cancer prevention on your back to school checklist. HPV vaccine can prevent the types of HPV that can cause cervical cancer in girls, anal cancer in boys, and genital warts in both boys and girls.
- Everyone older than 6 months of age is recommended to receive a yearly flu vaccination, and older children are no exception! It's important to know that flu can be serious, even for healthy young people. So all kids should get at least one flu shot every year.

Week 2: Back to school (children)

- There are three important ways to protect babies from whooping cough:
 - If you are pregnant, get vaccinated.
 - Surround your baby with a vaccinated family and caregivers.
 - Make sure your baby gets his vaccine according to CDC's recommended schedule.
- The recommended schedule is designed to safely provide protection to as many children as possible before they are exposed to life-threatening diseases.
- Children are immunized early because they are susceptible to diseases at a young age, and the consequences of these diseases can be very serious, even life-threatening, for infants and young children.

Week 3: Not just for kids (adults)

- All adults need vaccines, ask your doctor which are recommended for you.
- Few adults are getting recommended vaccines, leaving them and their loved ones vulnerable to diseases that could lead to serious illness, hospitalization, and even death.
- Older adults and people with chronic conditions like diabetes, heart disease, and asthma/COPD are at higher risk of complications from vaccine-preventable diseases.

Week 4: A healthy start (babies and pregnant women)

- If you are pregnant, get vaccinated.
- Surround your baby with a vaccinated family and caregivers.
- Make sure your baby gets his vaccine according to CDC's recommended schedule.

The complete set of key messages for each week may be found [here](#). Thank you so much for your support. Please let CDC know what you did so that they can track the success of the month!

5. Medimmune Announces Release of First Lots of 2013–2014 Seasonal LAIV

On July 26 Medimmune [announced](#) that FluMist® for the 2013–2014 season has begun shipping. Per estimates provided at the May 2013 National Adult and Influenza Immunization Summit, the company plans to deliver 12–15 million doses of seasonal influenza vaccine this fall.

6. NVAC Updated Standards for Adult Immunization are Available for Comment

The 2013 updated [NVAC Adult Immunization Standards](#) are open for public comment until August 16, 2013. NVAC was charged with examining the current adult immunization environment by updating adult immunization standards of practice with the intention of ultimately impacting Healthy People 2020 goals. A review group was established to address this charge on behalf of NVAC. Through discussion and careful review, the group has developed draft recommendations for consideration by NVAC to achieve this charge. It is anticipated that the draft report, as revised with consideration given to public comment and stakeholder input, will be presented at the NVAC September 2013 meeting for deliberation and decision on their final recommendation.

This draft document represents a major update of the NVAC's 2003 Adult Immunization Standards, in particular recognizing the new environment in which adult immunizations are now given. This new update acknowledges that the number and type of providers have expanded greatly beyond traditional physicians during the last 10 years. For example, many adults may receive care from specialists or at non-traditional locations such as pharmacies. The goal of the new Standards is to promote the concept that all providers should feel a fundamental obligation to assess their patients and either give immunizations or provide appropriate recommendations and referral.

This rewrite was led by the National Adult And influenza Immunization Summit's Access and Collaboration Workgroup, along with many other external partners involved in adult immunization. Please take this opportunity to also provide any comments you might have.

7. Why Vaccinate School-Aged Children Against Influenza?

In this online [article](#) in *Contemporary Pediatrics*, Dr. Piedra lays out a nice discussion about why we should be vaccinating school-aged children against influenza. The article also strongly speaks in favor of using school-located vaccination to improve our influenza immunization rates in this important population. Dr. Piedra concludes: "The medical home has been the primary site for administering influenza vaccines to children; however, many children do not have a medical home. Complementing

strategies and equitable reimbursement to improve influenza vaccination coverage among all children in the community are needed. A school-based vaccination program is 1 such strategy that can enhance access to vaccines and complement the influenza vaccination program administered at the health care practices.”

8. U.S. National Asthma Education and Prevention Program Recommends Influenza Vaccine

Because influenza can worsen asthma, the U.S. National Asthma Education and Prevention Program [recommends](#) that people with asthma get a regular influenza immunization.

9. Can Statins Reduce Influenza Severity?

Statins have recently become a target of investigation for expanding the armamentarium of agents that reduce morbidity and mortality in influenza. A recent [article](#) by David Fedson proposes that treatment with statins and other immunomodulatory agents represents a new approach to reducing mortality caused by seasonal and pandemic influenza. A news story discussing the article is available [here](#).

10. Reminder: Physician Fee Schedule – Proposed Rule for CY2014

The Physician Fee Schedule [proposed rule](#) for 2014 was released by CMS on July 8, 2013. The proposed rule addresses several immunization measures for inclusion in the Physician Quality Reporting System (PQRS). Please submit your comments [here](#).

11. Reminder: Medicaid Expansion States to Cover ACIP-Recommended Vaccines Under ACA

On July 5, 2013, CMS released the final [Medicaid Essential Health Benefits \(EHB\) rule](#). CMS clarifies that Medicaid Alternative Benefit Plans (ABPs) for the expansion population must cover the full range of preventive services required in the EHB package, including ACIP-recommended vaccines, with no cost-sharing. ***The relevant discussion begins on page 237 of the rule and is excerpted below.*** This is great news for vaccines!

Preventive Services as an EHB

The EHB Final rule specified that, to provide EHB, a plan must provide coverage of preventive services. This requires plans to cover a broad range of preventive services including “A” or “B” services recommended by the United States Preventive Services Task Force; Advisory Committee for Immunization Practices recommended vaccines; preventive care and screening of infants, children and adults recommend by HRSA’s Bright Futures program, and additional preventive services for women recommended by the Institute of Medicine. We proposed that Title XIX premium and cost sharing provisions apply to preventive services for adults, but not for children.

Comment: Many commenters commended HHS for including in ABPs the full range of preventive services required in the EHB, including all of the services specified in section 2713 of the PHS Act. The commenters believed this is a critical provision for vulnerable populations and will help achieve the Affordable Care Act objective of shifting health care emphasis from expensive interventions to cost-effective prevention. The commenters requested that HHS explicitly state this requirement (currently in the preamble at 78 FR 4631) in the regulation itself.

Response: The language in the preamble to the proposed rule, originating in section 2713 of the PHS Act, was included as a reference to the requirement to cover preventive services as part of providing EHB, which has been implemented by regulation codified at 45 CFR 147.130. We do not believe this requires further clarification in this final rule.

Comment: A number of commenters asked CMS to clarify its preamble language, "Title XIX premium and cost sharing provisions apply to preventive services." Specifically, CMS should clarify whether it intends this to apply to the ABPs for the new expansion population and/or to current state Medicaid plan services.

Response: We agree that this issue needs to be clarified, particularly in light of the issuance of the final rules implementing EHB requirements for the individual and small group markets. In the final regulations issued February 25, 2013 at 78 FR 12835, the provision of EHB was defined at 45 CFR 156.115(a)(4) to "include preventive health services described in [45 CFR] §147.130". That cross referenced provision describes the requirement for coverage of preventive services without cost sharing. As explained in the preamble to the proposed regulations, at 77 FR 70644, 70651 (Nov. 26, 2012), the intent was to include in the EHB coverage obligation the prohibition on cost sharing for preventive health services. Thus, while Medicaid cost sharing provisions at sections 1916 and 1916A of the Act apply generally to preventive services provided in ABPs, cost sharing may not be applied to preventive services that are within the definition of EHBs (described in 45 CFR 147.130). An ABP may include preventive services beyond the floor of coverage required as EHBs, and cost sharing may be applied to such preventive services at state option to the extent permissible under sections 1916 and 1916A of the Act.

12. Adult and Influenza Immunization Related Media Reports (focus on August 2–5)

Adult Vaccines

[Expanding Immunization Access for Children \(column\)](#) (New York Daily Record)

A letter issued by the Centers for Disease Control cited pharmacists as uniquely positioned to promote and provide vaccines. According to the National Association of Chain Drug Stores, on average, there is a pharmacy within 2.36 miles of any resident ... Another story is available [here](#).

[3 Immunizations Covered by Medicare Part B](#) (PhysBizTech)

As the calendar page flips to a new month, the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) reminds providers that August is National Immunization Awareness Month. Think of this annual national health observance as an opportunity to highlight the ...

[Las Vegas CBS Affiliate Unable to Suppress Pediatrician's Voice](#) (Forbes)

Diane Tuazon, as well as the producers who left her unsupervised, should be ashamed of themselves for fueling the fires of vaccine hesitancy and putting those unable to advocate for themselves at further risk. Channel 8 should take steps to remove this ...

[Sanofi Launches Phase 3 Study on Vaccine Against Clostridium Difficile](#) (Lloyd's List)

French pharmaceutical giant Sanofi SA (SAN.FR) said its vaccine unit Sanofi Pasteur started a phase 3 clinical program to evaluate the safety, immunogenicity and efficacy of an investigational vaccine for the prevention of primary symptomatic ...

[The Strengths and Limitations of Global Immunization Programmes](#) (OUPblog)

Modern vaccines are among the most powerful tools available to public health. They have saved millions of lives, protected millions more against the ravages of crippling and debilitating disease, and have the capacity to save many more. But like all ...

[Mass. Officials Say Nurses' Lack of HER Access Put Patients at Risk](#) (iHealthBeat)

Boston Medical Center patients were exposed to hepatitis B because nurses lacked access to electronic health records, according to an investigation by the Massachusetts Department of Public Health, the Boston Globe's "White Coat Notes" reports.

[Dr. Ellie Cannon: The Whooping Cough Revival – and Why Adults are Most at Risk](#) (Daily Mail)

However, this is peak season for a particularly nasty kind: pertussis. You probably know it as whooping cough, so called because of the sharp intake of breath or whoop that children make when they are in the midst of a coughing fit. Despite a ...

[Shingles Vaccination Helps Prevent Painful Disease](#) (Plainview Daily Herald)

I have been considering getting the shingles vaccination since it is recommended for those of us over 60 who had chickenpox as children. After researching, I decided it is something I should do. Shingles is a painful skin disease caused by a ...

[HPV Vaccine Effective but Grossly Underutilized](#) (Pittsburgh Post Gazette)

When Kathy Hixenbaugh of South Fayette heard about the HPV vaccine from her son's pediatrician, she thought about it, talked to her 13-year-old son and together they decided to have him vaccinated. But a recent report from the federal Centers for ...

[Report: Teen HPV Vaccination Rate Still Lagging](#) (Philadelphia Sunday Sun)

About 54 percent of teenage girls have received at least one of the three HPV shots. Only a third was fully immunized with all three doses. Last year's rates were essentially unchanged from 2011, and up only slightly from 2010. Rates for other vaccines ...

Influenza

[Novavax Announced Positive Preclinical Trial for H7N9 Influenza ...](#) (Vaccine News Daily)

Novavax announced on July 29 a positive preclinical trial for its virus-like particle vaccine candidate against the H7N9 Influenza A, which protected 100 percent ...

[Taiwan Reports First Occurrence of H5N3 Bird Flu](#) (Focus Taiwan News Channel)

Taiwan reports first occurrence of H5N3 bird flu. 2013/08/05 15:14:48. Taipei, Aug. 5 (CNA) An outbreak of low pathogenic H5N3 avian influenza has been detected on a duck farm in the eastern county of Hualien, the first occurrence of the virus strain ...

[Students to Join Pandemic Drill](#) (Greenville News)

It might be a highly contagious virus, a virulent flu or a drug-resistant superbug. But medical experts say a pandemic disease is sure to strike Greenville one day. So local health officials are conducting a drill this week so that when it happens, the ...

[Flu Fighters Educate Kids about Staying Healthy](#) (Brownsville Herald)

Children in the Rio Grande Valley will learn songs and moves to help them remember how to "fight the flu" as they get ready for the upcoming flu season with help from the Flu Fighters. The Texas Department of State Health Services Flu Fighters — two ...

[Virginia Health Officials: Be Wary of Pigs and H3N2v Virus](#) (Daily Press)

If you must be near pigs that are known or suspected to be infected with influenza viruses, wear protective clothing, gloves and masks that cover your mouth and nose. • If you develop a flu-like illness after exposure to pigs, see your doctor. Tell the ...

[Is China Really Ready for the Next Influenza Outbreak?](#) (The Diplomat)

The influenza virus – a leading cause of infectious disease in animals and humans – is a cause of ongoing apprehension among national and international ...

[HK Bans Taiwan Hualien's Poultry Eggs](#) (CRIENGLISH.com)

The World Organization for Animal Health notified the center that there have been outbreaks of low pathogenic H5N2 and H5N3 avian influenza detected on ...

[NanoViricides, LRRI Sign NDA for IND-Enabling Efficacy Studies on ...](#) (News-Medical.net)

These studies will employ multiple unrelated subtypes and strains of Influenza A, including the novel H7N9 strain, the subtype which is currently circulating in ...

[LPAI Outbreaks Detected in Taiwan](#) (ThePoultrySite.com)

The Taiwanese veterinary authorities have reported two outbreaks of low pathogenic avian influenza (LPAI) in Hua-Lien affecting ducks. The World ...

[Baramati Resident Dies of Swine Flu: Toll Up to 30](#) (Times of India)

Sanjay Pandurang Khade, a resident of Jalochi Road in Baramati, developed Influenza-like symptoms around July 22. He had fever with chills and cough.

[Research and Markets: Seasonal Influenza – Pipeline Review ...](#) (4-Traders/press release)

'Seasonal Influenza - Pipeline Review, H2 2013', provides an overview of the indication's therapeutic pipeline. This report provides information on the ...

[New Research Advances Development of Universal Flu Vaccine](#) (Scicasts)

When ferritin (gray) is fused with the influenza protein hemagglutinin (blue), it self-assembles into a sphere with eight protruding spikes from its surface. Image: ...

[Boy Contracts Swine Flu at DuPage County Fair](#) (The Doings Western Springs)

H3N2v is a variant form of influenza A, which was first detected in swine in 2011. ... The CDC is currently reporting more than a dozen cases of influenza A in the ...

[Swine Flu Shouldn't Sway Boone County Fair Crowd](#) (Rockford Register Star)

BELVIDERE — Boone County fairgoers should not worry about contracting swine flu just because the first Illinois case traces back to a local child. The Illinois Department of Public Health announced Thursday that a Boone County resident contracted the ...

[Child Gets Rare Flu from Pigs at DuPage County Fair](#) (Chicago Daily Herald)

A child contracted a rare form of flu after handling pigs at the DuPage County Fair last month, the Illinois Department of Public Health said today. The case of H3N2v flu is the first case in Illinois this year and is typically only passed from pigs to ...

[Swine Flu Case Confirmed in Illinois](#) (ABC7Chicago.com)

To avoid getting the illness, health officials urge you to wash your hands after exposure to animals, not to take food or drinks into areas with animals, and avoid contact with animals if you have flu-like symptoms. So far there have been more than a ...

[First Illinois Case of Swine Flu Contracted at DuPage County Fair](#) (Suburban Life Publications)

A Boone County child who had contact with pigs at the DuPage County Fair has contracted the first confirmed case of swine flu in Illinois this year, according to a news release from the Illinois Department of Public Health. The child exhibited mild ...

[Flu During Pregnancy Linked to Bipolar Disease in Offspring](#) (GoLocalProv)

The new findings, from the Child Health and Development Study, showed that the offspring of women who had influenza during pregnancy had a nearly 4-fold increased risk of bipolar disorder developing in adulthood. This study adds to already existing ...

- 13. UPDATE #1 (August 8, 2013)** - A summary of the latest Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices(ACIP) influenza vaccine recommendations for the 2013-2014 flu season is now available on CDC's [website](#). CDC continues to recommend that all persons ≥ 6 months of age be vaccinated against influenza each year. The summary recommendations highlight important updates on available products, vaccination timing, dose considerations, and information about vaccination of specific populations.

Summit partners are asked to share this resource and, if possible, provide a link to the summary on their website. The full recommendations will be published in the [MMWR](#). Providers should consult the full recommendations when available for complete information.

14. UPDATE #2 (August 8, 2013)

A small change has been made to Section 3 of the Inactivated Influenza Vaccine Information Statement [VIS](#). This change affects the bullet regarding allergies, noting the availability of an egg-free formulation. The original language was not incorrect, and providers who have already printed copies of that VIS do NOT need to discard them. The edition date of the VIS (July 26, 2013) has not changed. Providers should make severely egg-allergic patients aware that an egg-free influenza vaccine is available.

15. 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 you are 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>.

16. 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.