



## NATIONAL INFLUENZA VACCINE SUMMIT NEWSLETTER

# Influenza Activity Spotlights

Monday, December 15, 2008

Issue #12

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### Professional Medical Organizations

Please disseminate widely to all of your members.

**The Summit Newsletter will go on hiatus through the holiday season and will resume on January 9, 2009. Happy Holidays to All and thanks for all you do in influenza prevention!**

1. The National Influenza Vaccine Summit Executive Committee would like to provide a special gift to Summit members for this holiday season. A color template of [special gift cards](#) has been created for members to print and include with holiday greeting cards — a gift of influenza prevention. This idea was originally developed by the [Maryland Partnership for Prevention](#). The template for Summit members was created to print on Avery 8371 (ten 2" x 3½" cards per sheet) Business Cards. After printing, fold back and forth along the perforations to separate.
2. The December 12 *MMWR* included an [update](#) on current influenza surveillance and information on oseltamivir resistance. With respect to surveillance, for the week ending November 29, 2008, influenza activity was reported as sporadic in Puerto Rico and 22 states, and one state (Hawaii) reported local activity. Twenty-seven states and the District of Columbia reported no activity. No states have reported regional or widespread activity this season.

The latest in antiviral news is that 44 of 45 H1N1 isolates from 11 states are oseltamivir resistant. Although 60% of viruses tested come from just two states, it seems clear that H1 resistance levels will remain high for the near future, and H1 resistance will be present in communities where H1 is circulating this season. CDC has developed a set of [discussion points](#) on antiviral resistance.

3. On Wednesday December 10, the National Foundation for Infectious Diseases (NFID) held a webinar to reveal a new survey of approximately 4,000 American adults that indicates that only 29.6 percent had been vaccinated against influenza by mid-season this fall. The survey is the first of its kind to measure self-reported influenza vaccination rates during a current influenza season. NFID issued a [press release](#) for the webinar, as well as the [slide deck](#) used during the webinar.

By mid-season, less than one-third of adults polled had been vaccinated (29.6 percent), and more than half (54 percent) report having no intention of being vaccinated this season. Several common misperceptions about influenza are cited as the reasons for not being vaccinated, including 1) this course of prevention is unnecessary, 2) lack of belief in influenza vaccines in general, and 3) concerns that vaccination will cause sickness or adverse events. Of the fraction of adults who still intend to be vaccinated this season (16.6 percent), the majority (41.1 percent) cited lack of time as the reason for the delay. From a geographical perspective, vaccination rates were comparable across all regions of the U.S. In addition, approximately one-third of white adults (32.3 percent) and one quarter of black and Hispanic adults (24.9 and 22.7 percent, respectively) had been vaccinated.

According to the survey, more than 50 percent of all adults who are living with chronic diseases have not received an influenza vaccination. Interestingly, only one-third of adults with asthma (32.8 percent) had been vaccinated, while approximately one-half of adults with diabetes (52.3 percent) and heart disease (52.3 percent), and nearly two-thirds of adults with chronic lung disease (62.9 percent) have already been vaccinated against influenza. While approximately one-third (29.5 percent) of healthcare workers or caregivers polled had been vaccinated, only 12.7 percent indicated that they plan to be.

The complete survey results, administered by the RAND Corporation are available by visiting [http://www.rand.org/health/projects/flu\\_survey](http://www.rand.org/health/projects/flu_survey)

On the Wednesday, December 10 Summit call, [real-time data](#) through the first week of December were also presented by Laurel Edelman of SDI, indicating that at this time, physicians are also not immunizing after Thanksgiving. In fact, vaccination rates in physician practices remain strikingly similar to the rates in the 2007-08 season.

4. The [American Lung Association \(ALA\) has announced](#) the results of a survey of mothers showing that they do indeed recognize the great value in getting their families vaccinated against influenza throughout the winter months and even into early spring.
5. NACCHO has issued a [press release](#) announcing a donation of up to one million doses of Flumist influenza vaccine to selected state and local health departments around the country starting this month. This joint NACCHO-MedImmune effort supports the goal of the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) to broaden the influenza vaccination season into December, January, and beyond.
6. A recent [news story](#) in the *Anchorage Daily News* describes a new healthcare worker influenza immunization policy (with significant teeth) at Providence Alaska Medical Center.
7. Please visit the Summit's web site at [www.preventinfluenza.org](http://www.preventinfluenza.org) for more resources on influenza immunization.