

2013-2014 Influenza Season Hospital Talking Points

Surveillance

- Weekly surveillance reports are available at <http://www.maine.gov/dhhs/mecdc/infectious-disease/epi/influenza/influenza-surveillance-weekly-updates.shtml>. If you would like to be added to the e-mail distribution list, please e-mail disease.reporting@maine.gov with the request
- Influenza outbreaks are reportable, and Maine CDC will assist with guidance and support once an outbreak is identified. Please report outbreaks by phone at 1-800-821-5821 or by e-mail to disease.reporting@maine.gov (no confidential information by e-mail please)
- Pediatric influenza deaths are reportable. Please report by phone at 1-800-821-5821 or by fax to 207-287-6865
- Please report all laboratory confirmed influenza hospitalizations. Maine CDC appreciates all reports of positive influenza tests, by any testing method.
- www.maineflu.gov is a good resource for any influenza related questions
- Influenza posters can be ordered from our website at <http://www.maine.gov/dhhs/mecdc/infectious-disease/epi/order-form-wn.shtml>

Laboratory

- The first 10 rapid positives samples from each site should be sent for PCR confirmation
- Any suspect novel, or untypeable influenza strains must be sent to HETL for confirmation
- Please forward any suspected co-infections (positive for both A and B on a rapid test) to HETL for confirmation
- Consider sending samples for PCR testing on any hospitalized patient with a clinically compatible illness and a negative rapid test with no other etiology determined

Immunization

- Everyone six months of age and older should get a yearly flu vaccine
- Between 135 million and 139 million doses of vaccine are being produced for the 2013-14 influenza season. Ample supplies should be available by September and October
- Seven manufacturers now produce influenza vaccine for the U.S. market through different technologies (e.g., egg-based, cell culture-based, and recombinant hemagglutinin vaccines, inactivated vaccine, High Dose, Intradermal, Mist, trivalent or quadrivalent).
- Most of the influenza vaccine offered for the 2013–2014 season is trivalent (three components), containing two A viruses and one of the B viruses. The 2013–2014 trivalent influenza vaccine is made from the following three viruses:
 - A/California/7/2009 (H1N1)pdm09-like virus
 - A(H3N2) virus antigenically like the cell-propagated prototype virus A/Victoria/361/2011
 - B/Massachusetts/2/2012-like virus
- A limited quantity of seasonal influenza vaccine will be quadrivalent (four components), containing two A viruses and two B viruses. The quadrivalent vaccines contains the three viruses listed above, plus a B/Brisbane/60/2008-like virus
- If someone has a severe allergy to eggs with symptoms suggestive of anaphylaxis, CDC recommends referring patients to a provider experienced in managing allergy. There is a new vaccine that is cell culture-based which is appropriate for those with egg allergies (FluBlok)
- Due to the funding source restrictions, the vaccines supplied by MIP will be focused on the following **populations** only:
 - All Maine children ages 6 months through 18 years old
 - Employees of schools that provide onsite vaccine clinics on school days
 - Pregnant women and their partners (through health care providers who routinely care for pregnant women)

- Nursing home employees and residents
- Any Underinsured or Uninsured adult (if the patient’s insurance does not cover vaccines or if the patient does not have insurance)
- All individuals served by Tribal Health Centers and Municipal Health Departments.

Trade Name	Presentations	Age indications by licensure	MIP allowable age group use due to funding
Fluarix	0.5 ml in a pre-filled syringe	3 years and older	3 years through 18 years only
Flu-Mist	0.2 ml (single use spray)	2 through 49 years	2 years through 18 years only
Fluzone	0.25 ml (single dose syringe)	6 months through 35 months	6 months through 35 months only
Fluzone	0.5 mL (single dose syringe)	36 months and older	Children greater than 36 months and pregnant women
Fluzone	5.0 mL (multi-dose vial)	3 years and older	All Adults

- The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, the Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices (ACIP), and the Healthcare Infection Control Practices Advisory Committee (HICPAC) recommend that all U.S. health care workers (HCW) get vaccinated annually against influenza. Since 2002, Maine state law requires that healthcare facilities report data on seasonal influenza vaccine coverage among health care workers in their facilities annually to the Maine Center for Disease Control and Prevention (Maine CDC).
- The 2012-2013 HCW Influenza Vaccination Survey for the reporting period of September 1, 2012 through March 31, 2013 was completed in April 2013. The State average for vaccine coverage in the 2012-2013 influenza season among health care workers was **84.2%** (range: **52.2% - 98.4%**) showing an increase of **7.1%** from the previous season (**77.1%**, range: **50% - 97.5%**).
- All available formulations of the influenza vaccines for the 2013-14 season are available at <http://www.cdc.gov/flu/professionals/acip/2013-summary-recommendations.htm#table1>

Emergency Preparedness

- The ME CDC Pandemic Influenza Operations Plan 2013 has recently been revised, updated and expanded. The Plan can be accessed on line at: www.maineflu.gov. If you have questions concerning the Plan, you may contact Jane Coolidge at: jane.coolidge@maine.gov
- Awareness of influenza antiviral shortages better informs Maine CDC’s actions and potential ability to assist
 - While we may not be able to directly and immediately assist, the information you provide will inform our conversations with federal partners and will expedite assistance if there’s a severe emergency
 - If you are experiencing extreme difficulties ordering antivirals from your sources, please notify the Northern New England Poison Center at 1-800-222-1222. Be prepared to answer the following questions:
 - What drug and formulation are you having difficulty ordering?
 - How much are you attempting to order?
 - From what pharmaceutical vendor(s)?
 - Any other supporting information; how long it’s back-ordered, etc.
- If a surge occurs and hospitals are becoming overwhelmed, Maine CDC may initiate a bed availability poll via the Health Alert Network. If you’re not already a member, joining the HAN is as simple as heading to www.mainehan.org, clicking the “Register Now” button, and filling out the registration form. If you have any questions about the registration process or the Health Alert Network in general,

or if you require any training on entering bed availability data into EMResource, please contact the Maine Health Alert Network Coordinator at nathaniel.riethmann@maine.gov

Infection Control

- Droplet precautions should be used for all suspect influenza cases
- Stay home when you are sick
- Health care workers should all be vaccinated
- If you mask (which is a hospital decision) for unvaccinated health care workers, Maine CDC will release the first influenza of the season, and county level data will be available in the weekly report