



NATIONAL INFLUENZA VACCINE SUMMIT NEWSLETTER

Influenza Activity Spotlights

Monday, October 13, 2008

Issue #7

Professional Medical Organizations

Please disseminate widely to all of your members.

1. As discussed on the October 8 Summit call, the Association of Professionals in Infection Control (APIC) have recently issued an updated policy statement on healthcare worker influenza immunization. The [APIC position paper](#), which calls for mandatory vaccination with informed declination, can be found as the top item listed in "Featured News & Events" on the homepage of the [APIC website](#). APIC also issued a [press release](#) to publicize the importance of this statement and to encourage use of APIC's [free toolkit](#). The APIC position and those of many other healthcare organizations can be found on the [Summit's website](#).
2. Barnes-Jewish Hospital in Saint Louis, Missouri and their affiliates have announced a mandatory vaccination policy for all healthcare workers. The initial word on this policy was one of no vaccine = no pay. A [press release](#) announcing their decision states that vaccine will be provided on site and free of charge. While the press release states that vaccination will be required, it doesn't confirm the consequences of not getting vaccinated (i.e., no pay).
3. As was discussed on recent Summit phone calls, a study of influenza vaccine effectiveness (VE) among children by Peter Szilagyi and colleagues has now been [published](#). VE studies are challenging and this study indicates low (although not statistically significant) VE among children 6-59 months old. Limitations of this study are presented in the comment section of the paper, in fact, the comments section is mostly a limitations discussion. CDC has prepared a [commentary](#), including key talking points, on this paper. It is important to note that there are other studies, some using LAIV such as the [Belshe study](#), that show vaccine efficacy in the same population even when there was a strain mismatch. There has been some [media coverage](#) on the Szilagyi study.
4. CDC has developed [Key Points](#) in response to the [article](#) recently published in *Pediatrics* regarding influenza infection and co-infection with MRSA and its impact on pediatric mortality.
5. The October 6 issue of *American Medical News*, which is distributed to more than 350,000 physicians, features a [4-color feature](#) on the production and distribution of influenza vaccine. This educational article helps educate physicians on the complex nature of vaccine production and distribution. Please see the [October 6 issue](#) of the Summit's newsletter for more details.
6. The Healthcare Industry Distributors Association (HIDA) annual Influenza Vaccine Production & Distribution Market Brief (detailing the 2007-2008 season) will be released at the end of this month. People can contact [Melia Sandler](#) for more information. Please also visit www.FluSupplyNews.com for additional news and resources on influenza vaccine distribution.
7. The American Lung Association's Influenza Vaccination clinic locator, [Flu Clinic Locator](#), went live on September 16. Those offering influenza clinics and who want to be listed on the locator will find a link to do so. As part of being on the locator, clinic providers need to undergo a brief 10 minute training so

that they can update the information pertaining to their clinics regularly. The ALA locator also provides a link to clinics that are being offered by public health departments and facilities.