



NATIONAL INFLUENZA VACCINE SUMMIT NEWSLETTER

Influenza Activity Spotlights

Friday, December 14, 2007

Issue #11

Professional Medical Organizations

Please disseminate widely to all of your members.

1. On Friday, December 14, New Jersey's Health Commissioner approved mandatory influenza immunizations for preschool and daycare children. Many of you were treated to Dr. Eddy Bresnitz's discussion of this issue on the Wednesday, December 12, CDC/Summit Communications Call. There were multiple media reports, [New York Times.com](#) and [New Jersey's The Star Ledger](#), leading up to the decision, followed by today's [news report](#) of the positive decision. ***Congratulations to New Jersey and to Dr. Bresnitz!***
2. Multiple influenza and adult immunization bills have been introduced in the recent days. Over the past week, [H.R. 4702](#), [H.R. 4703](#), [H.R. 4704](#), and [H.R. 4705](#) were introduced by Representatives Waxman and Roybal-Allard (on adult immunization, thanks!) and [S. 2456](#) from Senators Clinton and Roberts (on pandemic and seasonal influenza, thanks!) were introduced. Media coverage of the bills is also included here, [Waxman-Roybal-Allard](#) and [Clinton-Roberts](#). A [sign-on support letter](#) for the Clinton-Roberts bill from Trust for America's Health has also been developed. Please support as you see fit!
3. As reported by Dr. Tony Fiore on the Wednesday call, influenza activity remains low in the United States. Additionally, currently identified strains that are circulating mostly match the vaccine strains! Please take advantage of this opportunity to protect more people from influenza!
4. HIDA has developed an "[influenza vaccination awareness postcard/airline magazine advertisement](#)" which ran in various airline magazines. Thanks HIDA!
5. A summary (with links) of news coverage on influenza topics for the past week can be found [here](#). Of note are media releases from NFID (encouraging protection through the holidays); from ALA (featuring Kristi Yamaguchi and former Eagles' wide receiver Mike Quick in their "Faces" campaign); from Oregon detailing their campaign to vaccinate the poor; and a letter to the NY Times from Drs. Carmona and Baker (of CIIC) encouraging influenza immunization of children.

6. Finally, there is a [blog](#) going on in the *Chicago Tribune* regarding influenza and other vaccine following the Merck recall of its Hib vaccine. If folks have the time, it is worth a read and if you can, a response. Misinformation needs to be corrected.