NEWS UPDATE – 1 -17 June 2013

Objective1: increase in seasonal vaccine use

**Influenza Vaccination Guidelines and Vaccine Sales in Southeast Asia: 2008–2011**
PLoS ONE 7(12): e52842. doi:10.1371/journal.pone.0052842
The rate of vaccine sales in Southeast Asia remains low, but there was a positive impact in sales after the A(H1N1)2009pdm pandemic. Low adherence to global vaccine guidelines suggests that more work is needed in the policy arena

**Novant Health to require flu vaccinations for hospital employees, volunteers, vendors**
Sun, 16 Jun 2013 08:02:53 GMT | Charlotte Observer
Novant Health, the Winston-Salem-based system that owns four hospitals in Charlotte, Matthews and Huntersville, recently announced that all employees, physicians, volunteers and vendors must get vaccinated against the seasonal influenza unless they get an exemption for medical or religious reasons.

**Influenza vaccine uptake amongst GP patient groups in England for winter season 2012 to 2013**
Sat, 15 Jun 2013 00:12:39 GMT | Gov.uk
Mandatory Flu Shot Policy Doesn’t Result in Mass Employee Exodus, Loyola ...
Wed, 12 Jun 2013 11:47:06 GMT | HealthCanal.com
Mandatory influenza (flu) vaccination as a condition of employment does not mean employees will leave en masse, according to a four-year analysis of vaccination rates at Loyola University Health System.

**Barriers to influenza vaccination among pregnant women**
Vaccine | Volume 31, Issue 27, Pages 2849-2910 (12 June 2013)
The reasons for influenza vaccine declination in pregnant patients include lower levels of knowledge and unfavorable attitudes regarding the safety and efficacy of the vaccine, and suggest the importance of education as a tool to improve vaccination uptake

**Flu vaccines aimed at younger populations could reduce transmission**
Tue, 11 Jun 2013 18:45:29 GMT | oregonstate.edu
A computer modeling analysis was just published in the journal Vaccine, in work supported by the National Institutes of Health. The study suggests that children in school and young adults at work do the vast majority of flu transmission. Programs that effectively increase vaccination in those groups would have the best payoff, the research concluded.

Also at **UT, Yale Researchers Claim Flu Vaccines Aimed at Younger Populations Could ...**
Thu, 13 Jun 2013 18:29:50 GMT | BioNews Texas
Flu programmes should target young over old, say experts
Thu, 13 Jun 2013 06:39:28 GMT | OnMedica
Flu vaccines aimed at younger populations could break annual ...
Wed, 12 Jun 2013 14:05:56 GMT
Study urges more flu shots for young people
Tue, 11 Jun 2013 22:04:40 GMT | KTVZ

**Subtle EHR alert increases pediatric flu vaccine by 9%**
Mon, 10 Jun 2013 17:57:26 GMT | EHRIntelligence.com
An unobtrusive pop-up in the corner of a pediatrician’s EHR can raise the number of children vaccinated against influenza by 9%, according to a study conducted among New York City patients. The study, authored by Dr. Melissa Stockwell of Columbia University and sponsored by
the Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality (AHRQ), showed that EHR alerts can be effective if they are not overwhelming or annoying for the clinician.

**A qualitative study of the coverage of influenza vaccination on Dutch news sites and social media websites**

*8 June 2013 | BMC Public Health | Birthe A Lehmann, et al.*

News media and social media discussed the same topics regarding influenza, but differed in message tone. Whereas news media reports tended to be more objective and non-judgmental, social media more critically evaluated the harmfulness of influenza and the necessity of the flu shot. Media may influence decision making and behaviours of Internet users and may thereby influence the success of vaccination campaigns and recommendations made by health authorities. Social media may be more of a problem in this sense, since it is neither controlled nor censored. Future research should investigate the actual impact of Internet media on the influenza decision making process of its users.

**CSL's flu vaccine leaves a hole in Australia's pandemic plan**

*Thu, 06 Jun 2013 02:21:17 GMT | Theconversation.com/*

Although no longer considered an immediate risk, the recent outbreak of bird flu (H7N9) in China means pandemic planning is back on national agendas. A cornerstone of these plans is the early availability of vaccines — and Australia may have a problem.

**First look at the burden flu places on hospitals**

*The Indian Express, 4 June 2013*

A study that assessed the burden of influenza hospitalisations found that roughly five people in every 1,000 in the community under study required such hospitalisation. It was the first such assessment in India, the researchers say. Carried out by Pune's National Institute of Virology, it found 20 per cent of hospitalised patients had influenza, adjusted that finding with those from health utilisation surveys of a rural population in Pune district, and then estimated what proportion of the local community required hospitalisation for influenza. The NIV study was published in the journal *PloS One* on May 15.

**Poor, elderly in Region 12 to get free flu, pneumonia vaccines**

*Minda News (Philippines), 3 June 2013*

Around 53,000 poor elderly residents in Region 12 are set to receive free immunization services for influenza and pneumonia from the Department of Health (DOH).

**In-school vaccinations could cut flu**

*Mon, 03 Jun 2013 21:14:12 GMT | Futurity: Research News*

Offering flu vaccines at elementary schools could expand vaccination rates and reduce costs, according to a new study reported in the scientific journal *Vaccine* by researchers from UC Davis Health System; the Monroe County, New York, Department of Public Health; University of Rochester Medical Center; and U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC).

**Also at**

- *School-located vaccination programs could reduce flu cases and deaths among ... Thu, 06 Jun 2013 00:08:03 GMT | HealthCanal.com*
- *Vaccination Programs at Schools Could Help Reduce Flu in Children Thu, 06 Jun 2013 00:08:03 GMT | Parent Herald*
- *Flu Shots at School Boost Vaccination Rates, Study ... - Treat or Threat Sun, 16 Jun 2013 01:23:12 GMT | Treatorthreat.com*
- *Study: Offering flu vaccines at elementary schools could expand vaccination rates, reduce costs Fri, 07 Jun 2013 | News-medical.net*

**Influenza vaccine for 2013: who, what, why and when?**

*Mon, 03 Jun 2013 21:14:12 GMT | The Conversation*
La escasez en Venezuela llega a las vacunas contra la gripe AH1N1

Después del brote y la posterior demanda generada quedó en evidencia que las vacunas son escasas. “Aquí no tenemos ni la vacuna, ni los medicamentos, ni los reactivos para el diagnóstico. Todos son materiales importados. Como sucede en otras áreas, hay un retardo para liquidar las divisas con los proveedores. Hay cierto descuido en el mecanismo de contingencia por esa causa”, señaló el exministro Orihuela, quien agregó otro problema al momento de cuantificar los decesos: el Ministerio de Salud no atribuye la causa de la muerte a la gripe AH1N1, sino que se lo achaca a la enfermedad base que tuviera el paciente contagiado.

Your winter flu will count this year

Science reporter Jamie Morton explores groundbreaking research into influenza and discovers how age, ethnicity and even our pay packets may be behind the illness - and how that will effect health spending.

Objective 2: increase in vaccine production capacity

Reuters: FDA approves Sanofi Pasteur influenza vaccine

Sanofi SA said on Monday that its Sanofi Pasteur vaccines division has won clearance from the U.S. Food and Drug Administration to market its four-strain influenza vaccine, Fluzone Quadrivalent. The Fluzone Quadrivalent vaccine is licensed for use in children six months of age and older, adolescents, and adults. The 2013 influenza season will be the first in which quadrivalent influenza vaccines will be available in the United States.

Objective 3: research and development

Reducing children's pain and distress towards flu vaccinations: A novel and effective application of humanoid robotics

This is the first study to examine the effectiveness of child-robot interaction for reducing children’s pain and distress during a medical procedure. All measures of reduction were significant. These findings suggest that further research on robotics at the bedside is warranted to determine how they can effectively help children manage painful medical procedures.

Studies showing how bird flu viruses could adapt to humans offer surveillance and vaccine strategies

Two studies published today in the journal Cell identify mutations that increase the infectivity of H5N1 and H7N9 viruses through improved binding to receptors in the human respiratory tract. The findings offer much-needed strategies for monitoring the emergence of dangerous bird flu strains capable of infecting humans and for developing more effective vaccines.

Medicago reports positive results for bird flu vaccine

If bird flu becomes a global pandemic, two Triangle companies are prepared to lead the charge against it. Canadian vaccine maker Medicago has just reported positive results for its H7N9 avian influenza vaccine candidate, making it the first company to achieve positive interim results from a preclinical trial for the indication.

Joint research laboratory for pathogen discovery to open in Beijing

Two studies published today in the journal Cell identify mutations that increase the infectivity of H5N1 and H7N9 viruses through improved binding to receptors in the human respiratory tract. The findings offer much-needed strategies for monitoring the emergence of dangerous bird flu strains capable of infecting humans and for developing more effective vaccines.
The Center for Infection and Immunity at Columbia University’s Mailman School of Public Health (CII) and the National Institute for Viral Disease Control and Prevention (NIVDC) within the Chinese Center for Disease Control and Prevention will open a Joint Research Laboratory for Pathogen Discovery in Beijing, according to a CII news release.

**Study shows possibility of universal flu vaccine** | Vaccine News Daily
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Sun, 02 Jun 2013 14:02:44 GMT | Vaccinenewsdaily.com

Researchers at the Vaccine Research Center announced on Thursday that some early stage research has shown that alternative flu vaccine techniques show a promising future for the possibility of a universal flu vaccine.

**An end to annual flu injections? Scientists develop new 'universal' jab ...**
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Fri, 14 Jun 2013 18:53:43 GMT | Daily Mail

**The Holy Grail of influenza research: a universal flu vaccine**
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Thu, 06 Jun 2013 05:57:18 GMT | The Conversation

**Universal flu vaccine effective in preclinical studies ...**
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Sun, 02 Jun 2013 18:44:43 GMT | Fiercebiotechresearch.com

**Franco-Chinese Agreement on Avian Influenza Vaccine Research**
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Wed, 29 May 2013 12:07:05 GMT | ThePoultrySite.com

French based multi-national animal health company Ceva Santé Animale has signed a scientific protocol with the South China Agricultural University to research and develop vaccine to help control avian influenza.

**Flu vaccine also linked to narcolepsy in adults: study - TerraDaily**
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Wed, 29 May 2013 19:40:37 GMT

**Outbreak news**

**Clinical Findings in 111 Cases of Influenza A (H7N9) Virus Infection**
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New England Journal of Medicine, June 13, 2013 Vol. 368 No. 24

**Long-term effect of the influenza A/H1N1 pandemic: attitudes and preventive behaviours one year after the pandemic**
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**Federal officials weigh H7N9 vaccine options**
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Intensive federal deliberations are under way on whether to stockpile a vaccine against the H7N9 flu virus that emerged this spring in China, similar to the government’s response to the H5N1 avian flu threat, health officials said today.  Read CIDRAP article...

**WHO proposes new pandemic flu alert levels**
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The World Health Organization (WHO) today proposed a new pandemic alert system, one that’s designed to focus more on disease risk than geographic spread and to streamline communications to the public.  Read CIDRAP article...

**CDC: Reserve H7N9 testing for severely ill patients**
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The US Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) recently modified its advice for testing patients for suspected novel H7N9 influenza infections, suggesting that clinicians test only patients who have illnesses that require hospitalization.  Read CIDRAP article...

**WHO, CDC issue new H7N9 assessments and guidance**
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Though no new novel H7N9 avian flu cases have been reported since the end of May, response and preparedness activities are under way, with the World Health Organization (WHO) updating its risk assessment and US officials issuing and tweaking guidance documents.  Read CIDRAP article...
**MERS and H7N9: Which Pandemic Will Be Next?**
*Decoded Science (USA), 3 June 2013*

**Shanghai man dies from H7N9 avian influenza, becomes 38th fatality**
*The Global Dispatch (USA), 2 June 2013*

**H7N9 bird flu has cost China $6.5 billion**
*Thu, 06 Jun 2013 00:00:00 GMT*

**China ends local emergency responses to H7N9**
Local emergency responses to H7N9 influenza outbreaks in China have all ended, a Chinese media report said today, as the World Health Organization (WHO) released an overview of what has been learned about the virus and the disease since it emerged 2 months ago.  *Read CIDRAP article...*