**NEWS UPDATE – 1-7 August 2013**

**Objective1: increase in seasonal vaccine use**

*Minsa informa que ha distribuido casi 3 millones de vacunas contra gripe AH1N1*

El Ministerio de Salud (Minsa) de Perú informó hoy que en el marco de sus acciones contra la gripe AH1N1, desde abril y mayo pasado se han distribuido un millón 700 mil vacunas para adultos, y un millón 200 mil dosis para niños, a nivel nacional.

**Hong Kong, Scientific Committee recommends seasonal influenza vaccination for 2013/14 season**

*A Time’s Memory - Blog (Australia), 1 Aug 2013*

A spokesman for the Centre for Health Protection (CHP) of the Department of Health said on 29 July that the CHP’s Scientific Committee on Vaccine Preventable Diseases (SCVPD) had updated its recommendations on the application of the seasonal influenza vaccination in Hong Kong for the forthcoming 2013/14 influenza season.

**More details:**

**Evaluating influenza vaccination campaigns beyond coverage: A before-after study among health care workers**

*American Journal of Infection Control, Vol 41 | No. 8 | August 2013 | Pages 667-758*

Anna Llupià, Guillermo Mena, Victòria Olivé, Sebastiana Quesada, et al.

Influenza vaccination campaigns based on educational interventions do not seem to increase coverage in the hospital setting, and their impact on educational goals is not usually evaluated. This study describes the campaign implemented in a university hospital and assesses the achievement of the strategic objectives, which were to increase health care workers perceptions of the risk of influenza and of their role as promoters of influenza vaccination among their colleagues and to increase knowledge about influenza.

**Predicting influenza vaccination uptake among health care workers: What are the key motivators?**

*American Journal of Infection Control, Vol 41 | No. 8 | August 2013 | Pages 667-758*

Kimberly Corace, Chatura Prematunge, Anne McCarthy, Rama C. Nair, et al.

Health care worker (HCW) vaccination was critical to protecting HCW during the H1N1 pandemic. However, vaccine uptake rates fell below recommended targets. This study examined motivators and barriers influencing HCW pH1N1 vaccination to identify modifiable factors that can improve influenza vaccine uptake.

**Health care worker influenza immunization rates: The missing pieces of the puzzle**

*American Journal of Infection Control, Vol 41 | No. 8 | August 2013 | Pages 667-758*

Susan Quach, Jennifer A. Pereira, Christine L. Heidebrecht, Jeffrey C. Kwong, et al.

Immunization rates are used to assess the level of protection against influenza, but limited data exist on how such rates are measured in health care organizations. The study is based on interviews with campaign planners to learn about processes for collecting immunization data, including barriers and facilitating factors for measuring and reporting rates.
Using a validated health promotion tool to improve patient safety and increase health care personnel influenza vaccination rates

American Journal of Infection Control, Vol 41 | No. 8 | August 2013 | Pages 667-758
Kevin Real, Sujin Kim, Joseph Conigliaro

This study employed the risk perception attitude (RPA) framework to determine whether health care personnel (HCP) influenza-related risk perceptions and efficacy beliefs could be used to segment individuals into meaningful groups related to vaccination uptake, absenteeism, and patient safety beliefs.

Impact of hospital policies on health care workers' influenza vaccination rates

American Journal of Infection Control, Vol 41 | No. 8 | August 2013 | Pages 667-758
Mary Patricia Nowalk, Chyongchiou Jeng Lin, Mahlon Raymund, Jamie Bialor, et al.

Overall annual influenza vaccination rate has slowly increased among health care workers but still remains below the national goal of 90%. The study concludes that hospital mandates for HCW influenza vaccination with consequences for noncompliance are associated with larger increases in HCW influenza vaccination rates than mandates without such consequences.

Influenza vaccination knowledge and perceptions among Veterans Affairs nurses

American Journal of Infection Control, Vol 41 | No. 8 | August 2013 | Pages 667-758
Andrea R. Jennings, Christopher J. Burant

Flu vaccination among nurses in the Veterans Health Administration system is crucial in the prevention of influenza. Nurses working at a Veterans Administration Medical Center completed the Influenza Vaccination Knowledge and Perceptions Survey. The findings from this survey suggest the need for additional education for nurses as it relates to flu vaccination.

Influenza immunization coverage of residents and employees of long-term care facilities in New York State, 2000-2010

American Journal of Infection Control, Vol 41 | No. 8 | August 2013 | Pages 667-758

The study describes influenza immunization coverage trends from the New York State (NYS) Department of Health long-term care facility (LTCF) reports. Overall median immunization coverage levels for NYS LTCF residents and employees were 84.0% (range: 81.6%-86.0%) and 37.7% (range: 32.7%-50.0%), respectively. LTCF resident immunization coverage levels in NYS have neared the Healthy People 2020 target of 90% but have not achieved high LTCF employee coverage, suggesting a need for more regulatory interventions.

Understanding the Cost-Effectiveness of Influenza Vaccination in Children: Methodological Choices and Seasonal Variability

Pharmacoeconomics, Volume 31, Issue 8, August 2013
Anthony T. Newall, Juan Pablo Dehollain, Prudence Creighton, Philippe Beutels, James G. Wood

The universal vaccination of children for influenza has recently been recommended in the UK and is being considered in other developed countries. The aim of this study was to explore the potential costs and benefits of childhood influenza vaccination to gain a better understanding of the key drivers of cost-effectiveness. The study concludes that universal childhood influenza vaccination is likely to be cost-effective if a substantial herd protection effect can be achieved by the program. However, it is important that decision makers understand the role of seasonal variability and the impact of alternative methodological choices in economic evaluations of influenza vaccination.
Objective 3: research and development

TEPIK/APACI International Influenza Symposium
Mon, 05 Aug 2013 | APACI
The 2013 TEPIK/APACI International Influenza Symposium was held in Seoul, South Korea on 12 July 2013. Over 250 delegates from 15 countries attended the meeting.
Abstracts from the Symposium on New Developments in Vaccines

Outbreak news

First study of human transmission of new bird flu raises worries
Wed, 07 Aug 2013 | Reuters
The first scientific analysis of probable human-to-human transmission of a deadly new strain of bird flu that emerged in China this year gives the strongest evidence yet that the H7N9 virus can pass between people, scientists said on Wednesday.

2009 H1N1 flu virus continues circulating globally
Tue, 06 Aug 2013 | CIDRAP
Influenza activity increased in several areas of the Southern Hemisphere and was dominated by the 2009 pandemic H1N1 strain over the 2-week period from Jul 7 through Jul 20, according to World Health Organization (WHO) updates.

Pérou: le nombre de décès dus au virus AH1N1 atteint 34
Tue, 06 Aug 2013 | Leparisien.fr
Deux nouveaux décès dus à la grippe AH1N1 ont été enregistrés lundi au Pérou, ce qui porte à 34 le nombre de morts liés au virus cet hiver dans le pays, où le nombre de cas est estimé à 600, selon le ministère de la Santé.

Illinois reports its first H3N2v case of the year
Fri, 02 Aug 2013 | CIDRAP
Illinois health officials yesterday reported the state’s first variant H3N2 (H3N2v) influenza case of the summer, in a child who had contact with swine at a county fair.

Influenza A (H7N9) and the Importance of Digital Epidemiology
New England Journal of Medicine, August 1, 2013 Vol. 369 No. 5
Marcel Salathé, Ph.D., Clark C. Freifeld, M.S., Sumiko R. Mekaru, D.V.M., Anna F. Tomasulo, M.P.H., and John S. Brownstein, Ph.D.
In recent outbreaks including that of novel H7N9 influenza, digital disease surveillance has supplemented laboratory studies and work by public health officials and epidemiologists, by leveraging widespread use of the Internet, mobile phones, and social media.

610 people have died of Swine Flu in India in first seven months of 2013.
National Turk (Turkey), 29 July 2013
At least 610 people have died and over 4500 infected of swine flu (H1N1 virus) in India in first seven months of 2013. An official spokesman said 610 people died of H1N1 virus (Swine flu) in India from January 1, 2013 to July 26, 2013.