



Communicable Disease Service Mission Statement

Our mission is to prevent communicable disease among all citizens of New Jersey, and to promote the knowledge and use of healthy lifestyles to maximize the health and well-being of New Jerseyans.

We will accomplish our mission through our leadership, collaborative partnerships, and advocacy for communicable disease surveillance, research, education, treatment, prevention and control.

Chris Christie, Governor
Kim Guadagno, Lt. Governor
Cathleen D. Bennett
Commissioner

COMMUNICABLE DISEASE SERVICE

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What's New with Flu?

In the United States, millions of people are sickened, hundreds of thousands are hospitalized, and thousands to tens of thousands of people die from influenza (flu) every year. Although it is often minimized as a minor illness, much of the U.S. population is at high risk of serious flu complications, either because of their age or because they have a medical condition like asthma, diabetes (type 1 and 2), or heart conditions; or because they are pregnant. For these reasons, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) recommends a yearly flu vaccine as the first and most important step in protecting against flu viruses. Everyone six months of age and older should receive a flu vaccine by the end of October, if possible. However, as long as flu viruses are circulating, vaccination should continue throughout the flu season, even in January or later.

There are several flu vaccine options available for the 2016–2017 flu season including a new vaccine for people 65 years and older, FLUAD™, and a quadrivalent flu shot licensed for people four years and older, FLUCELVAX®. The flu vaccines recommended for use during the 2016–2017 season are all injectable



vaccines. The 2016–2017 trivalent vaccines are recommended to contain:

- an A/California/7/2009 (H1N1)pdm09-like virus
- an A/Hong Kong/4801/2014 (H3N2)-like virus
- a B/Brisbane/60/2008-like virus (B/Victoria lineage)

The 2016-2017 quadrivalent vaccines will contain the above three viruses as well as a B/Phuket/3073/2013-like virus (B/Yamagata lineage).

While promoting flu vaccination to patients, please be aware that the CDC has made some changes in recommendations and provided

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New Jersey Department of Health Cross Collaboration a Promising Practice

The Association of Health Facility Survey Agencies recognized the Department's cross division collaboration to ensure good infection control in New Jersey's health care facilities as a promising practice. The Division of Health Facilities Survey and Field Operations partnered with Communicable Disease Service to provide a Safe Injection Ambassador training program to all 100 members of the survey staff. The program provided surveyors with a basic foundation for recognizing safe injection practices and increased participants' ability to identify potential infection control breaches.

Surveyors included nurses, pharmacists, dietitians, and building inspectors. These surveyors inspect all licensed and/or certified health care facilities including hospitals, ambulatory surgery centers, hospice and long-term care.

This is the second infection control education program that was developed in conjunction with the Communicable Disease Service. The first program was an education session that included training on protocols to refer infection control breaches identified during survey activity to the NJDOH health care associated infection coordinator and/or the state epidemiologist.

Survey staff indicated that the training has provided consistency between survey teams. Increased education will ultimately increase the quality of care provided to the patients and residents of New Jersey. The Division's effective use of infection control educational opportunities and collaborative relationship with the Communicable Disease Service promotes the goals and objectives of the Survey and Certification program by ensuring staff have the most current infection control information and resources accessible for their use. 



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CDS Employee Shares Keynote Address at AHFSA Conference

The Association of Health Facility Survey Agencies (AHFSA) held its annual conference in Austin, Texas this past August. Representation included state licensing and survey agencies and participants from the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS). The opening plenary highlighted the relationship that infection control and epidemiology have with licensing and survey. Mary Beth White-Comstock, an infection preventionist from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), was invited to lead the panel. For the state perspective, Jason Mehr and Shawn Tupy, healthcare-associated infection (HAI) coordinators from the New Jersey Department of Health and the Texas Department of State Health Services (Texas DSHS) respectively, presented the work they had done with their state licensing and survey agencies. The emphasis on the plenary was the positive effects of collaboration between regulating agencies and HAI programs.

CDC highlighted the recent Infection Control Assessment and Response

(ICAR) work being done in states and how partnering with licensing and survey agencies could benefit both parties. NJDOH and Texas DSHS were given the chance to highlight some recent successes with their respective programs. Mr. Mehr highlighted the NJDOH award winning infection control breach reporting algorithm, as well as the injection safety surveyor training. Mr. Mehr also urged survey agencies to collaborate with their HAI coordinators, a point that was not taken lightly, as multiple surveyor and licensing staff actually initiated contact with their epidemiology programs shortly after the conference. Later in the conference, the mid-west consortium of state regulatory agencies invited CDC, NJDOH, and Texas DSHS to further the discussion between HAI programs and regulatory bodies with CMS. This smaller session gave individual states a chance to ask questions about the roles and responsibilities of the HAI programs in Texas and New Jersey. Feedback was very positive overall, and AHFSA looks forward to continuing collaboration to prevent HAIs in licensed facilities. 

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A Note from the Editor

Thank you to those who took a few moments to respond to the NJ Communi-CABLE readership survey. I am pleased that a vast majority of our readers rated the NJ Communi-CABLE very highly for subject matter and quality. We will continue to provide this publication on a quarterly basis and will contribute articles based on the areas of interest indicated in the survey. One suggestion was to add an "interesting fact" feature and you will see on page 6 that I agree and made it a part of the newsletter. Thank you once again for supporting the newsletter and please be sure to share the link each quarter with your partner agencies.

Suzanne Miro, MPH, MCHES, Editor, NJ Communi-CABLE 





The Flu, continued from page 1

updates regarding the 2016–2017 flu season. The following is a quick review of what you need to know to keep your patients on track.

Interim Recommendation Against Use of LAIV

As advised by the Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices (ACIP), CDC recommends:

- Injectable flu vaccines — inactivated influenza vaccine (IIV) or recombinant influenza vaccine (RIV) — should be used during 2016–2017.
- The intranasal live attenuated influenza vaccine (LAIV) sold under the trade name FluMist® Quadrivalent, should not be used during the 2016–2017 flu season.

This is an interim recommendation that applies to the 2016–2017 season only.

The recommendation against the use of LAIV is based on concerns about effectiveness. There were no safety concerns associated with LAIV. For years, studies have shown that LAIV was very effective in protecting against flu, particularly in young people. However, data from 2013–2014 and 2015–2016 showed poor, or relatively lower, effectiveness of LAIV against the predominant circulating H1N1 viruses.

Since FluMist® Quadrivalent is still an FDA-licensed product, there

may be some available supply of the vaccine in the United States during the 2016-2017 season. CDC, and its panel of immunization experts known as the ACIP, make public health recommendations for the use of approved vaccines. Consideration of effectiveness and safety data may sometimes lead to recommendations that are more specific or more limited than those outlined in the FDA-approved indications.

Based on manufacturer projections, health officials expect that supply of IIV for the 2016–2017 season should be sufficient to meet any increase in demand resulting from the ACIP recommendation, though providers may need to check more than one supplier or purchase a flu vaccine brand other than the one they normally select.

Flu Vaccine and Egg Allergy

Studies that have examined the use of both the nasal spray vaccine and flu shots in egg-allergic and non-egg-allergic patients indicate that severe allergic reactions in people with egg allergies are unlikely. Therefore, the egg allergy recommendations for the 2016–2017 flu season have been updated:

- Anyone with an egg allergy can receive any licensed flu vaccine, however the vaccine should be administered in an inpatient or

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outpatient medical setting and they should be supervised by a health care provider who is able to recognize and manage severe allergic conditions.

- People with egg allergies no longer have to wait 30 minutes for observation after receiving their vaccine.

CDC has created an algorithm to reflect these new recommendations available at <https://www.cdc.gov/flu/protect/vaccine/egg-allergies.htm>. (Please note, a previous severe allergic reaction to influenza vaccine, regardless of the component suspected of being responsible for the reaction, is a contraindication to future receipt of the vaccine.)

Vaccine Doses for Children Aged Six Months through Eight Years

Some children six months through eight years of age will require two doses of flu vaccine for adequate protection from flu. Children in this age group who are getting vaccinated for the first time will need two doses of flu vaccine, spaced at least 28 days apart.

The current recommendation is that children six months through eight years of age need only one dose of 2016–2017 seasonal influenza vaccine if the child has previously received two or more total doses of trivalent or quadrivalent influenza vaccine before July 1, 2016. The two



previous doses do not need to have been given during the same season or consecutive seasons.

Children six months through eight years who have previously received only one dose or no doses of influenza vaccine need two doses of vaccine to be fully protected for the 2016–2017 season. If the vaccination status is unknown for any child in this age group, that child should be given two doses of seasonal flu vaccine.

For additional information about the 2016–2017 flu season, please view the MMWR Recommendations and Reports available at <http://www.cdc.gov/mmwr/volumes/65/rr/pdfs/rr6505.pdf>.

For New Jersey specific information, please visit www.nj.gov/flu.



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CDS Welcomes New Staff!

Dr. Faye Rozwadowski, MD joins the NJDOH as the new CDC Epidemic Intelligence Service Officer. She received her Bachelor of Science in Biochemistry at Virginia Tech, attended Georgetown University School of Medicine in Washington, D.C. and completed her Family Medicine residency at Naval Hospital Jacksonville, Florida. She served for a total of 11 years in the U.S. Navy as an active duty and board certified Family Physician prior to starting this fellowship.

Health and has previously worked with the Connecticut Emerging Infections Program foodborne disease unit.

Erika Lobe, MPH will be serving as the new Adolescent/Adult Immunization Coordinator. She received her Bachelor of Arts in Sociology from UNC-Chapel Hill and her Master of Public Health degree from Johns Hopkins Bloomberg School of Public Health. She comes to us with experience in infectious diseases, international health, cervical cancer/HPV prevention, and as a former Peace Corps volunteer working with vaccination campaigns in Benin, West Africa. 🇺🇸

Susan Hannagan, MS, MPH joins the Vaccine Preventable Disease Program surveillance staff and will be working primarily on acute flaccid myelitis. She is a graduate of the Yale School of Public



Get more information at <http://nj.gov/health/cd/handwashing.shtml>.

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Infectious Disease Fact

Did you know?

The building now referred to as the Old Barracks (which is currently a museum) just a short walk from the New Jersey Department of Health in Trenton, NJ, was once used as a smallpox inoculation site for the Continental Army. 🇺🇸





Get Smart About Antibiotics Week 2016!

Get Smart About Antibiotics Week (GSW) is an annual observance to raise awareness of antibiotic resistance and the importance of appropriate antibiotic prescribing and use. According to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), at least 2 million people become infected with bacteria that are resistant to antibiotics and at least 23,000 people die as a direct result of these infections. Many more people die from other conditions that were complicated by an antibiotic-resistant infection.

Each year, the New Jersey Department of Health (NJDOH) partners with the CDC to disseminate messages and materials in support of the week's goal to increase awareness. As in previous years, NJDOH will post a series of social media messages on Twitter and Facebook and provide hard copies of educational materials to health care and public health organizations by request.

Be sure to follow NJDOH on Twitter at <https://twitter.com/NJDeptofHealth> and "like" us on Facebook at <https://www.facebook.com/NJDeptofHealth>



<http://www.cdc.gov/getsmart/community/about/index.html>. The CDC GSW page at <http://www.cdc.gov/getsmart/community/about/index.html> has many tools and resources to assist organizations with planning events and promoting the observance. The NJDOH antibiotic resistance web page also has materials available and can be viewed at <http://www.nj.gov/health/cd/ar/index.shtml>. NJDOH has a supply of antibiotic resistance materials. If you are interested in placing an order, please contact Suzanne Miro at suzanne.miro@doh.nj.gov or at 609-826-5964 to place an order. Available items include brochures, posters, Spanish-language fotonovelas, viral prescription pads and tear pads for patients emphasizing appropriate use of antibiotics.

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Bergen County Public Health Nurses Host CDS Presentations

On September 9, 2016 Patricia Barrett, Healthcare Associated Infection Coordinator, and Suzanne Miro, Sr. Health Communication Specialist addressed antibiotic resistance with health professionals in Bergen County. Hosted by Edith Collazzi, Nursing In-Service Instructor for the Bergen County Department of Health Services, the presentations were part of a continuing professional education class to increase awareness of antibiotic resistance and to provide them with tools to help combat this problem. According to Ms. Collazzi, “It’s an important topic and in the recent past we have not offered anything on antibiotic resistance so we decided it would be valuable to incorporate into our

continuing professional education program.” Ms. Barrett gave a detailed overview of antibiotic resistance, how resistance occurs among humans, and emphasized the impact that it has on the population. Ms. Miro followed by providing a training to the audience entitled “Teaching Communities About Antibiotic Resistance.” Each participant received a toolkit of resources to help them engage their communities in discussion about antibiotic resistance and how all of us play a part in reducing this problem by using antibiotics correctly. If you have a group that is interested in being trained, please contact Suzanne Miro at suzanne.miro@doh.nj.gov or 609-826-5964. 

HopeFest Raises Community Awareness of Health Services

In August 2016, the Assembly of God (AG) Church in Trenton, New Jersey hosted their first community health fair appropriately titled “HopeFest.” Approximately 2,000 community members attended HopeFest which featured 25 vendors including the New Jersey Department of Health, Vaccine Preventable Disease Program (VPDP). The VPDP distributed immunization health education materials for all age groups in both English and Spanish. Since cost and awareness

of health services can be potential barriers for vaccination, one of the many resources provided included a flyer listing nearby locations to access free or low-cost vaccines.

Attendees of HopeFest were also able to receive free health screenings, groceries, backpacks, as well as live entertainment, face painting, and activities for children. Due to the large turnout and favorable feedback from the community, AG Church will be hosting HopeFest again in 2017. 



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Vaccine Preventable Disease Program Wins National Award

The New Jersey Department of Health (NJDOH), Vaccine Preventable Disease Program (VPDP), was the recipient of the Healthy People 2020 Immunization Coverage Award for two categories. The National Immunization Conference, sponsored by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, awarded the NJDOH for outstanding progress in immunization coverage for influenza vaccination among children and immunization coverage for adolescents aged 13-17 years.



Pictured are VPDP staff left to right: Ramona Braddock, Natalie Kratz, Jenish Sudhakaran, Barbara Montana, and Jill Dinitz-Sklar.

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