Interactive Websites Test Flu Readiness of New Jersey Residents and Businesses

Are you "Flu Savvy?" Is your business prepared if employees call out sick due to the flu? These questions and many more can be answered by logging onto two interactive web applications that seek to inform and educate New Jersey residents on the flu.

“One of the best ways to prevent the spread of the flu is education,” said Mary E. O'Dowd Commissioner of the New Jersey Department of Health. “With these web tools, we help educate New Jersey residents and the business community on the dangers of the flu in an interactive and entertaining way.”

At “Get Flu Savvy,” users start with a 104.5 degree fever and lower their temperature to normal by navigating a roadmap back to health. Users take flu challenges, are provided historical facts, watch videos about the flu and learn how to prevent the flu and what to do if they become infected. As a participant moves along the roadmap, the player’s temperature is lowered by completing interactive quizzes, games and challenges. Get Flu Savvy is available at: http://www.getflusavvy.com/

“Operating Under the Influenza,” is a flu simulation game that tracks the business community of City Town as a flu pandemic hits. Users choose one or more businesses to run, then pick the number of workers for each company, establish the makeup of their workforce and institute different contingency plans to protect employees. As players move through the game, businesses are given educational information provided by the CDC. Tips include:
The Partnership for Maternal and Child Health of Northern New Jersey, in collaboration with the New Jersey Department of Health, launched the Protect Me with 3 video contest in an effort to broaden public awareness about the importance of adolescent vaccinations. New Jersey pre-teens and teens, 11 through 18 years of age, were challenged to create short (30 second) videos about one of three vaccines:

- **Tdap vaccine**, which is a booster against tetanus, diphtheria, and pertussis. Pertussis, or whooping cough, can keep kids out of school and activities for weeks. It can also be spread to babies, which can be very dangerous.

- **Meningococcal vaccine**, which protects against meningococcal disease. Meningococcal disease is caused by bacteria and is a leading cause of bacterial meningitis (a serious infection around the brain and spinal cord) and its complications. This infection can lead to brain damage, hearing loss, learning disabilities, and even death.

- **HPV vaccine**, which protects girls and women against the types of human papillomavirus (HPV) that most commonly cause cervical cancer. HPV vaccine can also help protect boys and girls against genital warts and anal cancer.

Kiefer Wilson, 15, of Willingboro, was awarded the Grand Prize for his original rap video highlighting the causes, symptoms, treatments and prevention of HPV. Kiefer won a new iPad 3 and a chance for his video to be aired on television. He was encouraged to enter the contest by his teacher at the Burlington County Institute of Technology (BCIT), Westampton Campus. “I believe everyone should exercise their right to get vaccinated because it can save your life,” said Kiefer, a sophomore at BCIT Westampton Tech. “When I heard about this contest, it inspired me to enter and give my peers a voice.”

Austyn Kaplan, 17, of Marlboro, and Dan Arriaza, 16, of Jersey City, were awarded first and second Runners-Up, respectively, for their motivational videos instructing peers to seek vaccination against HPV, an infection which is most...
Flu Savvy, continued from page 1

Providing masks to employees to cover the mouth and nose, asking employees to wave rather than shake hands, promoting teleconferencing and sending sick workers home.

The impact the flu has on worker productivity is tracked throughout the simulation. By the end of the game, players will see if their business or businesses were able to continue operating during the crisis. Operating Under the Influenza is available at:

https://njlmn.rutgers.edu/jsp/ext/pfg/index.jsp

Both web applications were developed in partnership with Rutgers University.

Operating Under the Influenza:
A Continuity of Operations Simulation Tool for Businesses

Can your organization survive the pandemic? Play "Operating Under the Influenza" to learn more about effectively planning for crisis situations!

- Build companies to reflect real-world businesses, departments, and employees
- Figure out how to deal with the absence of key employees
- Implement workforce continuity policies to keep organizations functioning
- Track the effectiveness of different workforce continuity policies

Getting Started:

1. If it isn’t already installed on your computer, first download and install Adobe Air.
2. Then download and install Operating Under the Influenza.
3. Open Operating Under the Influenza on your local computer to play!
Protect Me with 3, continued from page 2

common in people in their late teens and early 20s. Their submissions, along with the Grand Prize video, can be viewed at

NJ’s coverage rates are at or above the national average for Tdap, meningococcal, and HPV vaccines (for females), but there is still room for improvement. With the increase in the number of pertussis cases this past year, it is more important than ever for adolescents to receive all of the recommended vaccinations.

Parents/guardians should talk to their health care provider to ensure that their children are enrolled in the New Jersey Immunization Information System (NJIIS), New Jersey’s confidential, web-based immunization registry. NJIIS provides an official immunization record of your child’s immunization history and convenient way to keep track of your child’s next scheduled vaccines. For further information about NJIIS, please visit https://njiis.nj.gov.

Winners announced for NJ’s first adolescent vaccine education contest. From left to right: Dr. Christina Tan, State Epidemiologist/Assistant Commissioner, NJ Department of Health; Kiefer Wilson, Grand Prize Winner; Austyn Kaplan, First Runner-Up; Ilise Zimmerman, Co-Executive Director, Partnership for Maternal and Child Health of Northern New Jersey.
Infectious Disease Summit-2012

The Infectious Disease Summit is now on-line and you can earn public health CE credits!!! The summit is broken into two separate modules:

- Part A (morning presentations): “Keeping the Infection Out of the Injection,” “Antibiotic Resistance,” “Public Health Outbreak Investigation Roles & Responsibilities” and “If it Isn’t Flu…What is It?”
- Part B (afternoon presentations): “Rabies Prophylaxis & Human Rabies Case,” “Salmonella Outbreak Associated with Chicken Livers” and “Norovirus Outbreak at a University.”

Part A is worth 2.00 public health credits and Part B is worth 1.00 public health credit. Each course includes several video segments which must be viewed in their entirety before proceeding to a post test. A score of at least 73% is required to receive public health CEs. The post test will remain accessible for seven days after the course has been completed. Credits will be added to participants’ NJ Learning Management Network (NJLMN) transcripts upon successful completion of the post-test. The modules are posted on NJLMN at https://njlmn.rutgers.edu. To access the modules, log in and click on “on-line courses.” Public health continuing education credits are available only to those who did not earn credits at the live offering.

This is the first time that the Infectious Disease Summit has been offered as an on-line course. Thank you to the team at Rutgers University-Office of Continuing Professional Education that assisted with this project!
THE IMPACTS OF UNSAFE MEDICAL INJECTIONS IN THE U.S.

Unsafe Injection Practices Have Devastating Consequences

Syringe reuse and misuse of medication vials have resulted in dozens of outbreaks and THE NEED TO ADVISE MORE THAN 150,000 PATIENTS...
...to seek testing for bloodborne pathogens such as HEPATITIS B, HEPATITIS C AND HIV and have led to...

In just one clinic, syringe re-use to access medication vials for multiple patients resulted in an outbreak and one of the largest public health notifications in U.S. history.

50,000 PEOPLE EXPOSED TO INFECTION

Outbreaks Occur in a Variety of Medical Settings

Steps Every Healthcare Provider Should Take

- Needles and syringes should not be used for more than one patient or reused to draw up additional medication.
- Do not administer medications from a single-dose vial or IV bag to multiple patients.
- Limit the use of multi-dose vials, and dedicate them to a single patient whenever possible.
- Speak up if you see a colleague not following safe injection practices.

Injection Safety is Every Provider’s Responsibility

The One & Only Campaign aims to eradicate outbreaks from unsafe medical injections by raising awareness among patients and healthcare providers about proper practices. The campaign is a public health effort led by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) and produced by the Safe Injection Practices Coalition (SIPC), a collaboration of several medical societies, state health departments, patient advocates, and private medical companies.
Injection Safety

New Jersey continues its participation in the national Safe Injection Practices Coalition (SIPC). New injection safety and bloodborne pathogen education materials and resources are available on the One & Only Campaign website (www.oneandonlycampaign.org).

Are you responsible for conducting staff training or in-service education for employees or others?

“How to Do it Right” is a two-minute, animated video that follows “Ordinary Joe” through visits to his health providers. Joe gets an infection due to unsafe injection practices. The video explores the basics of safe injection practices and how good practice translates into reduced infection due to poor injection practices. Another resource is the bloodborne pathogens training activity. Wearing gloves and taking other infection control precautions aren’t just for your protection. The SIPC created this training to remind healthcare providers that the measures they take to protect themselves from bloodborne pathogens and other infection exposures, as required by the Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA), also protect patients from healthcare-associated infections. Injection safety and other basic infection prevention and control practices are central to patient and healthcare provider safety. This is a guided-module that is a great complement to traditional bloodborne pathogen training for

Continued on page 8
Injection Safety, continued from page 7

healthcare professionals. These new videos are available to enhance your trainings! Access the videos at: 
http://www.oneandonlycampaign.org/content/audio-video

New materials (poster and brochure) for health professionals and healthcare facilities regarding insulin pens are now available! Order FREE copies at the One & Only Campaign website! 🎥

Two Posters Presented at ISDS Annual Conference in San Diego

Teresa Hamby, a data analyst with the New Jersey Department of Health (NJDOH), Infectious and Zoonotic Disease Program (IZDP) presented two posters at the International Society for Disease Surveillance (ISDS) annual conference in December 2012. Both posters were the result of emergency department data analyses of data collected in EpiCenter, an online syndromic surveillance system developed by Health Monitoring Systems, Inc (HMS). EpiCenter incorporates statistical management and analytical techniques to process health-related data in real time. Chief complaint text is classified, using text recognition methods, into various public health-related and other categories. The first poster, based on an analysis completed by colleagues Michael Berry et al. in the NJDOH Consumer and Environmental Health Service, displayed a comparison of EpiCenter data to universal billing information to identify how well heat-related illness is captured in EpiCenter chief complaint text. The second poster, by Ms. Hamby, IZDP staff, and local epidemiologists, outlined an investigation of several statewide alerts in EpiCenter data related to paralysis that took place in July 2012. For more information, please contact Teresa Hamby (teresa.hamby@doh.state.nj.us) or Stella Tsai (stella.tsai@doh.state.nj.us) by email, or by phone at (609) 826-5964. 🎥
New Resources for Outbreaks in School and Daycare Settings

These can be found on the CDS Home page under Find a Disease / Health Topic – Outbreaks

The NJDOH Communicable Disease Service includes:
Infectious and Zoonotic Disease Program (IZDP): 609-826-5964
Vaccine Preventable Disease Program (VPDP): 609-826-4860

We’re on the Web! www.nj.gov/health/cd

Past issues of the New Jersey Communi-CABLE are available online at: http://nj.gov/health/cd/pub.shtml

Need a Speaker for Your Event?

We are looking to take our antibiotic resistance message on the road. If your professional organization needs a speaker for grand rounds, conferences or meetings please contact us to see how we can meet your needs. Antibiotic resistance and appropriate prescribing are critical health care issues. The New Jersey Department of Health, Communicable Disease Service has partnered with the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention’s Get Smart About Antibiotics program to increase awareness of this problem and deliver accurate information to health care providers. For more information or to arrange a date for a presentation, please contact Suzanne Miro, Senior Health Communication Specialist at suzanne.miro@doh.state.nj.us or 609-826-5964.