

**Medical Director's Report  
Board of Health  
June 2010**

**Influenza Vaccine coverage among health care personnel  
for the most recent Influenza season**

As of mid-January, 62% of health care workers had received a seasonal influenza vaccine. Three percent more reported an intention to be vaccinated before the season was over.

In contrast, only 37% of health care workers received H1N1 vaccine in 2009. Ten percent of those health care workers reported an intention to be vaccinated before the end of the season.

Those persons who had both an H1N1 vaccine and a seasonal vaccine were 35% in number.

If you worked in a hospital, you were more likely to be vaccinated for seasonal flu – 72% of health care workers did get vaccinated with it. If you worked in a long-term care facility, 54% were vaccinated, and if you were in another setting, like a private office, only 48% were vaccinated.

The H1N1 vaccination rate was also higher in a hospital at 51%, compared to outpatient clinics at 39%, and long-term care facilities were poorest at 20%.

**Comment:** Clearly, we have a long way to go before we have health care workers vaccinated for influenza. The expectation is that the State Department of Health will again initiate a regulation mandating influenza vaccination among health care workers. This was attempted in this past season, but was backed away from when resistance of a sizeable nature was raised by the health care workers.

Among states, New York State was about average in terms of its vaccination rate for H1N1 vaccine amongst children through age 17 and in adults over or equal to age 18 years of age.

**General Activities**

During the month of May, much of my time was taken up with discarding and culling of files in anticipation of our move, and I was out of town for two weeks.