

**Medical Director's Report
Board of Health
April 2013**

Influenza Effectiveness

CDC report as of February 22, 2013. Primary report on the effectiveness of the vaccine for this season has come in from the CDC. In general they confirm the protective effect of the vaccine for persons aged 6 months to 64 years and support the continuation and expansion of vaccination amongst target age groups.

Breaking the protection down by virus groups the following was evident:

- For influenza B the effectiveness across all age groups was 67%.
- For influenza A the effectiveness across all age groups was 47%.

By age:

- a) 6 months to 17 years effectiveness was 58%
- b) 18 to 49 years of age was 46%
- c) 50 to 64 years of age was 50%
- d) over 65 years of age was 9%.

This figure of 9% is subject to some comment. First, it wasn't found to be statistically significant due to sample size. Second, it was consistent with estimates in a recent interim report from Europe. This low number is subject to change based on a larger sample size after the close of the influenza season. It is possible that some older adults did not mount an effective immunity response to influenza A.

An additional important note, these are percentages regarding total prevention of influenza. There is no data currently available for the important benchmark of prevented hospitalizations and deaths. In previous reports (looking at multiple seasons), it has been found that vaccination reduces the risk for hospitalization by 61%. We shall see if this season holds true in that regard and whether this 9% figure holds true after a larger sample size is used.

General Activities

- Met with Ted Schiele of the Tobacco Control Project. We discussed the incongruity of the Pharmacies marketing tobacco products in their stores. Pharmacies are currently projecting to the public an increasing image of being a center for health. Tobacco products no longer meet that test of being healthy products.
- Attended the periodic meeting of Community Quality Advisory Committee.
- Reviewed the form that we use for auditing Planned Parenthood as our subcontractor for sexually transmitted disease control; specifically with regard to changes in Hepatitis C virus testing, treatment and with regard to upgrading review of their vaccinations for HPV and Hepatitis B.
- Reviewed, updated and signed Childhood Lead Poisoning Prevention Policy.
- Attended Health Department Management Meeting addressing supervisory roles and skills.
- Reviewed documents regarding bloodborne pathogens in preparation for upcoming annual meeting.
- Reviewed survey tool for upcoming chart review at Planned Parenthood of the Southern Finger Lakes. Planned Parenthood holds our contract for STD services and we annually review their charts for quality control.
- Signed miscellaneous Child Find documents and MOMS Program documents.
- Reviewed abbreviations for use in Community Health Services.