



INFLUENZA WATCH LOS ANGELES COUNTY

Influenza Vaccination Recommendations

The advisory committee on immunization practices (ACIP) recommends, beginning with the 2008-09 influenza season, annual vaccination of all children aged 6 months -18.

Either inactivated vaccine (TIV) or live attenuated influenza vaccine (LAIV) may be used when vaccinating healthy persons aged 2-49 years.

LAIV should not be administered to children aged <5 years with possible reactive airways disease, persons at higher risk for influenza complications because of underlying medical conditions, children aged 6--23 months, and persons aged >49 years.

Children aged 6 months--8 years should receive 2 doses of vaccine if they have not been vaccinated previously at any time (doses separated by 4 or more weeks);

For more information visit:

<http://www.cdc.gov/flu/professionals/acip/primarychanges.htm>

**The influenza season is approaching –
now is the time to vaccinate!**

For information regarding influenza vaccine lot release:

<http://www.fda.gov/cber/flu/flu2008.htm>

Order FREE health education materials

In an effort to promote healthy practices, free materials are available from Public Health to distribute to clinics, hospitals, schools, and organizations that wish to be proactive in promoting healthier practices.

For more information visit:

<http://publichealth.lacounty.gov/acd/HealthEd.htm>

2007-2008 Influenza Season Summary

Los Angeles County experienced a moderate influenza season during 2007-08. Of reported cases, the majority had influenza type A (72%), consistent with state and national reports. Influenza activity peaked later in the season, at the beginning to middle of February. In total, 28 cases of severe pediatric influenza were reported, including one death. Many of these pediatric cases occurred in unvaccinated children with pre-existing conditions.

In the News

Influenza-Associated Pediatric Mortality and *Staphylococcus aureus* co-infection

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention has reported a rise in the number of influenza-associated pediatric deaths with *Staphylococcus aureus* co-infection. During the 2006-2007 influenza season a total of 73 deaths were reported; 22 of these were co-infected with *Staphylococcus aureus*. This represents a five-fold increase from previous years.

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<http://www2a.cdc.gov/HAN/ArchiveSys/ViewMsgV.asp?AlertNum=00268>

Effects of School Closures, 2008 Winter Influenza Season, Hong Kong

The effect of the decision to close Hong Kong schools in light of a cluster of suspected influenza-associated pediatric deaths was examined. Retrospective analysis of surveillance data indicated that influenza activity was already decreasing by the time schools were closed. Since current influenza surveillance methods have a lag time, the ability of public health officials to correctly time interventions is still in development.

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<http://www.cidrap.umn.edu/cidrap/content/influenza/general/news/sep1208schools-br.html>