

NEEDLE TIPS

from the Immunization Action Coalition — www.immunize.org

AAP reaffirms its policy for mandatory influenza vaccination of health-care personnel. IAC's Influenza Vaccination Honor Roll approaches 600.

In the October issue of the journal *Pediatrics*, the American Academy of Pediatrics (AAP) issued its updated vaccination policy statement titled “Influenza Immunization for All Health Care Personnel: Keep It Mandatory.” In the policy’s introduction, AAP states, “Mandatory influenza immunization programs for all HCP [health care personnel] should be implemented. During the 2013 and 2014 influenza season, 36% of all HCP and 58% of HCP working in hospitals reported an influenza vaccination requirement at their institution. Mandating influenza vaccine for all HCP is ethical, just, and necessary.” The full policy statement is available at <http://pediatrics.aappublications.org/content/early/2015/09/01/peds.2015-2922.full.pdf>.

In October 2010, AAP was among the earliest healthcare societies to issue a policy statement supporting the adoption of mandatory influenza vaccination of HCP. Currently, the list of national societies with policies for mandatory influenza vaccination of HCP includes:

- American Academy of Family Physicians
- American College of Physicians
- American Hospital Association
- American Medical Directors Association
- American Pharmacists Association
- American Public Health Association
- Association for Professionals in Infection Control and Epidemiology
- Infectious Diseases Society of America
- National Association of County and City Health Officials
- National Business Group on Health
- National Patient Safety Foundation
- Pediatric Infectious Diseases Society of America
- Society for Healthcare Epidemiology

More information about these mandatory influenza vaccination policies, as well as links to the policy statements, is included in IAC’s 2-page summary titled “First Do No Harm: Mandatory Influenza Vaccination Policies for Healthcare Personnel Help Protect Patients” featured on page 11 of this issue of *Needle Tips*.

IAC's Honor Roll for Mandatory Influenza Vaccination of Healthcare Personnel

In October 2009, IAC launched its “Honor Roll for Mandatory Influenza Vaccination of Health-

care Personnel” at www.immunize.org/honor-roll/influenza-mandates. Created to recognize health-care systems, hospitals, and practices that mandate influenza vaccination of staff, the IAC press release issued at launch recognized the Infectious Diseases Society of America, the first professional society to issue such a policy statement, as well as Barnes Jewish Corporation (BJC) HealthCare, Missouri; Children’s Hospital of Philadelphia; Creighton University; Hospital of the University of Pennsylvania; Loyola University Health System, Illinois; MedStar Health, Maryland and Washington, DC; TriHealth, Good Samaritan and Bethesda North Hospitals, Cincinnati, Ohio; University of Iowa Hospitals; and Virginia Mason Medical Center, Seattle. Since 2009, nearly 600 organizations have been added to the honor roll ranks.

How to Apply for the Honor Roll

To be added to the honor roll, an organization must (1) require influenza vaccination for staff and (2) include strong measures (e.g., a mask requirement, reassignment to non-patient care, or dismissal) to prevent transmission of influenza to patients from staff who cannot or will not get vaccinated. Find out more about the honor roll and how to apply at www.immunize.org/honor-roll/influenza-mandates.



valent (contain four strains of influenza virus) rather than trivalent (three strains). You can find information on all influenza vaccines available in the U.S. for the current season and the age groups approved by FDA by going to the Immunization Action Coalition’s (IAC) information sheet titled “Influenza Vaccine Products for the 2015–2016 Influenza Season” available at www.immunize.org/catg.d/p4072.pdf.

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Ask the Experts

The Immunization Action Coalition extends thanks to our experts, medical officer Andrew T. Kroger, MD, MPH, and nurse educator Donna L. Weaver, RN, MN, both with the National Center for Immunization and Respiratory Diseases at the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC).

Influenza vaccines

Which influenza vaccines are available for this influenza season?

Multiple manufacturers are producing influenza vaccine for the U.S. market for the 2015–2016 season. Inactivated, recombinant (inactivated), and live attenuated vaccines are being produced using egg-based, cell culture-based, and recombinant technologies. The live attenuated vaccine and some of the inactivated influenza vaccines are quadri-

Immunization questions?

- ▶ Email nipinfo@cdc.gov
- ▶ Call your state health department (phone numbers at www.immunize.org/coordinators)