CALIFORNIA AREA
INFLUENZA PLAN UPDATE

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Program Directors’ Meeting - October 15, 2015
Each year, seasonal influenza sweeps across the country in epidemic proportions causing thousands of illnesses and hospitalizations. Some years, this epidemic causes as many as 49,000 deaths while in other years it is less severe.
Impact of Influenza

- **Influenza is a serious disease that causes significant morbidity and mortality**
- Influenza and resulting sequelae such as pneumonia are among the top 10 leading causes of death in AI/ANs
- Each year between 3,000 and 49,000 persons die from influenza and/or related complications
- Influenza-related mortality is significantly higher in the AI/AN population as compared to that in non-Hispanic Whites [1]
- **Influenza Vaccination remains the best strategy for reducing flu related illness**
- Advisory Committee on Immunization Practice (ACIP) recommends annual flu vaccination for everyone 6 months of age and older [2]

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IHS National Level Actions

• The Indian Health Service has rolled out a National Influenza Plan with a specific goal of decreasing the number of people who get sick or die from the flu by increasing the number of people who have influenza vaccine coverage.

• **IHS Plan Goals:** Those based on Healthy People 2020 Benchmarks
Message from the IHS Chief Medical Officer:

“To protect the health of our patients, families, and the community, I’m asking all health care providers and support staff to help stop the spread of influenza by getting vaccinated themselves, and to encourage their patients, families and community members to get their influenza vaccine as soon as possible.” (Dr. Susan Karol, October 6, 2015 e-mail)
HP 2020 Goals for Influenza Vaccine Coverage

• Seasonal Influenza vaccine coverage for the **general population ages 6 months and older** to reach 70%

• Influenza vaccine coverage for **healthcare personnel (HCP)** to reach 90%
IHS Overall Coverage and Action Plan

- **Patient influenza vaccine coverage** has remained relatively stable over the past 5 flu seasons – **well below the 70 % HP 2020 goal**
  - During 2014-15 Last season in IHS only 36% of patients received the influenza vaccine.

- **Health Care Personnel (HCP) coverage** has remained consistent - **well below the 90 % HP 2020 goal for past 7 influenza seasons**

- IHS Action Plan was **developed to provide a framework** for IHS to increase influenza vaccination coverage among patients as well as Health Care Personnel.
  - Eventual reduction in morbidity and mortality
## Influenza Vaccine Coverage among Patients (Clinical Users) by IHS Area, 2014-2015

**Active Clinical User Population**: Patients with at least 2 visits in the last 3 years, one of which must be to a primary care clinic. This denominator includes active clinical population for facilities reporting into NIRS. Not all facilities in the Oklahoma Area report into NIRS.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Area</th>
<th>Active Clinical Population*</th>
<th># Vaccinated</th>
<th>% Vaccinated</th>
<th>Active Clinical Population*</th>
<th># Vaccinated</th>
<th>% Vaccinated</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Alaska</td>
<td>12705</td>
<td>3573</td>
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<td>25206</td>
<td>7465</td>
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<td>Albuquerque</td>
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<td>Billings</td>
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<td>6053</td>
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<td>33711</td>
<td>12411</td>
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<tr>
<td>California</td>
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<td>34421</td>
<td>7864</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
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<td>29594</td>
<td>11059</td>
<td>37.4%</td>
<td>59529</td>
<td>19489</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>Nashville</td>
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<td>1805</td>
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<td>12921</td>
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<tr>
<td>Navajo</td>
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<td>23811</td>
<td>46.6%</td>
<td>123131</td>
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<tr>
<td>Oklahoma</td>
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<tr>
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<td>52631</td>
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<tr>
<td>Portland</td>
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<td>Tucson</td>
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<td>9414</td>
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<td>544344</td>
<td>196372</td>
<td>36.1%</td>
</tr>
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</table>
IHS National Influenza Vaccination Plan

• The IHS Influenza Plan for the 2015-2016 Influenza Season” on August 21st - Webinar
• GPRA Measure Logic Changes was held on Tuesday, September 15, 2015 - Webinar
• The IHS Influenza Kick Off for 2015-2016 – Webinar September 23
• National GPRA/GPRAMA webinar on Influenza and Childhood Immunizations – Webinar - October 1, 2015
• IHS Influenza Vaccination of Healthcare Personnel – Webinar October 8, 2015
CA Area Influenza Plan (Draft)

- Establishes a guiding framework for partnering with National, State, Area, and local Tribal and Urban healthcare program stakeholders to promote resources and action that ensure best available protection against seasonal influenza and related complications for AI/AN patients and communities; that offered through Influenza Vaccination coverage consistent with HP 2020 goals.
Influenza Vaccine Coverage among Clinical Users
California Area, Flu Seasons 2010-2015

Healthy People 2020
Goal = 70%

Influenza Vaccine Coverage:
- 22% in 2010-2011
- 21% in 2011-2012
- 23% in 2012-2013
- 26% in 2013-2014
- 21% in 2014-2015

CA Data
National Data

CA Data Trends:
- 22% in 2010-2011
- 21% in 2011-2012
- 23% in 2012-2013
- 26% in 2013-2014
- 21% in 2014-2015

National Data Trends:
Influenza Vaccine Coverage among Healthcare Workers*
California Area, Flu Seasons 2010-2015

Healthy People 2020 Goal = 90%

*Healthcare personnel defined as all employees, contractors, volunteers and students working in IHS healthcare facilities
CA Area Level Influenza Planning Activity

• Area Level Influenza Vaccination Stakeholder Initial Planning Meeting - September 15
• E-survey re local Influenza vaccination practice distributed to all CA Area Tribal and Urban healthcare program-based immunization coordinators – September 21 and 25 (21 programs responded)
• Area Level Influenza Plan stakeholder meeting – October 7
• Area Influenza Plan (Draft) finalized – October 14
• Program Director Meeting – October 15 – Distribution of Draft Area Influenza Plan
• CAO-hosted EHR Office Hours Agenda: Discussion of Influenza Coverage Practice Efforts/Resources - October 15
Best Practices for Influenza Vaccination Coverage at All Levels

• To Increase **Access** to Vaccine

• To Increase **Provider Awareness**

• To Increase **Community Acceptance**
Ensure Broad Influenza Vaccination Coverage

Offer on-site Influenza vaccinations, annually (as soon as vaccine is available) for:

• Executive Leadership

• All Healthcare Program Personnel (Clinic and Outreach Staff)

• Patients 6 months of age and older
Survey Results: Area Influenza Vaccination Practice/Resources for 2015-16
Local Level Influenza Vaccination Practice Survey
Questions/Responses

• Identify Immunization Coordinator – Free Text
• Does your clinic utilize the RPMS Immunization Package for running reports/monitoring immunization coverage? 86% or 18/21 -yes
• If you have an on-site pharmacy, does the pharmacist provide influenza vaccinations? 19% 3/16 - yes
• Have you received your 2015/2016 Influenza vaccine supply? 67%, 14/21 yes
• Have you ordered enough vaccine to immunize your entire population of patients ages 6 months and older for the 2015/2016 season? 77% yes, 16/21
Survey Questions/Responses

• Source of influenza vaccine supply? 43% County (free), 5% County (purchase), 24% IHSNSSC, 80% VFC
• Do you stock a supply of antivirals? 62% yes, 13/21
• If you are an Resource & Patient Management System (RPMS) user, Version 8.5 Patch 10 is the current version of the Immunization Package. Are you currently using this version? 85% yes, (3/20 programs not using current version)
• Immunization codes change annually for influenza vaccine. A document reflecting 2015/2016 codes have been distributed by e-mail from the CA Area Office Immunization Program Coordinator on 9/17/2015. Does your program use the current codes? 90% yes, 18/20
• Do you currently utilize EHR reminders at your clinic? 71% yes, 15/21
Survey Questions/Responses

• Do you document immunization refusals? 95% (20/21) - yes

• Do you access and document influenza vaccines that are given outside of your practice? 86% - yes (18/21)

• Do you have a current Influenza Vaccination Plan (including policies & procedures) for your clinic? 81% - yes (17/21)

• If yes, does your plan include a masking policy for healthcare personnel? 69% (1/16) yes

• Do you currently utilize standing orders for influenza vaccination?
  • 90% yes – 19/21
  • 67% used standing orders for children and adults; 33% used standing orders for adult patients only
Survey Questions/Responses

• Use of Clinical Reporting System Reports (Local) - 41% (7/17), Immunization Package Reports – 65% (11/17), Influenza-Like-Illness Reports - 53% (9/17)?

• Frequency of running patient immunization status reports?
  • Weekly 5% (1/20), Monthly 55% (11/20), Quarterly 40% (8/20)

• Annual training for immunization staff to ensure competency?
  95% (20/21) Yes; 5% (1/21) No
General Survey Comments/Responses:

- “Does IHS have a model for annual flu vaccine training?”
- “Our Administration does not support the masking of personnel who have not had the influenza vaccine”.
- “State doctor via VFC will come and provide annual Immunization training to all medical staff--1st one will start October 2015”
- “Very difficult to receive information from other facilities on immunization status of patients. Only order what I believe will be used”.
Influenza Resources

- **Centers for Disease Control and Prevention Flu website** – includes surveillance data, fact sheets for providers and patients about influenza and influenza vaccine, and free printed, video and radio resources - [www.cdc.gov/flu](http://www.cdc.gov/flu)


- **Indian Health Service Flu website** – links to IHS surveillance data and educational resources for American Indian and Alaska Native Communities – [www.ihs.gov/flu](http://www.ihs.gov/flu)

- **Department of Health and Human Services Influenza website** – [www.flu.gov](http://www.flu.gov)


- **Personal Testimonies** - Stories about families affected by flu - [http://www.familiesfightingflu.org/](http://www.familiesfightingflu.org/)

- [http://www.vaccineinformation.org/influenza/](http://www.vaccineinformation.org/influenza/)

- **Influenza Vaccine and Antiviral Ordering** - IHS National Supply Service Center [http://www.ihs.gov/NSSC/](http://www.ihs.gov/NSSC/)
Contact Information

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