



The Commonwealth of Massachusetts
Executive Office of Health and Human Services
Department of Public Health
Bureau of Health Care Safety and Quality
99 Chauncy Street, 11th Floor, Boston, MA 02111
617-753-8000

DEVAL L. PATRICK
GOVERNOR

TIMOTHY P. MURRAY
LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR

JUDYANN BIGBY, MD
SECRETARY

JOHN AUERBACH
COMMISSIONER

Circular Letter: DHCQ 12-9-574

TO: Acute Care Hospital Chief Executive Officers

FROM: Madeleine Biondolillo, MD
Director, Bureau of Health Care Safety and Quality

DATE: September 28, 2012

RE: Data Submission Instructions for Seasonal Influenza Vaccination of Employees at
Massachusetts Acute Care Hospitals for the 2012-2013 Influenza Season

The purpose of this letter is to provide instructions on the mandatory statewide reporting by licensed acute care hospitals of seasonal influenza vaccination rates of employees for the 2012-2013 influenza season.

Background

As a condition of licensure, Massachusetts Department of Public Health (MDPH) regulations require all licensed healthcare facilities to:

- Offer, free-of charge, annual influenza vaccine to all personnel (full and part-time employees, contracted employees, volunteers, house staff and students);
- Document receipt of influenza vaccine administered within and outside the facility or document the declination of immunization.
- Report information to MDPH documenting compliance with the vaccination requirement, in accordance with reporting and data collection guidelines of the Commissioner (105 CMR 130.325(l)).¹

The MDPH has established an overall minimum performance goal for **acute care hospital** healthcare employee vaccination rates for the 2012-2013 influenza season. Statewide, the MDPH expects that a 90% influenza vaccination coverage rate will be reached for all **acute care hospital** employees, with no facility reporting a rate less than 86% (two percentage points above the Massachusetts acute care hospital average reported rate of 84% in 2011-2012). The goal of this policy is to advance patient

¹ 105 CMR 130.00 Hospital Licensure; available at www.mass.gov/dph.

safety by ensuring optimal healthcare employee influenza vaccination coverage of those who do not have a medical contraindication.

In addition to meeting the licensing requirements, the data collected during the 2012-2013 influenza season will be publicly reported prior to the 2013-2014 influenza season and will be used to guide future policy development and to set public health priorities.

Changes in Reporting Healthcare Personnel Influenza Vaccination Data

As part of the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) hospital inpatient quality reporting program, beginning January 1, 2013, participating hospitals must monitor and report summary counts of healthcare personnel (HCP) influenza vaccinations using the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention's (CDC) National Healthcare Safety Network (NHSN). NHSN is an internet-based application created and managed by the CDC for patient and healthcare personnel safety surveillance. All licensed Massachusetts acute care hospitals have been successfully reporting specific healthcare associated infection data (HAI) to MDPH using NHSN since 2008.

To be compliant with the CMS requirement and avoid unnecessary duplicate reporting, MDPH will require all acute care hospitals to report healthcare personnel (HCP) influenza vaccination data to the NHSN beginning with the 2012-2013 influenza season. The NHSN Healthcare Personnel Influenza Vaccination measure is endorsed by the National Quality Forum and was designed to ensure reported HCP influenza vaccination rates are comprehensive within a single institution and comparable across institutions. NHSN has recently released the module for aggregate reporting of HCP influenza vaccination. The module requires reporting for three groups of HCP:

- Employees of the facility (staff on the facility payroll);
- Licensed independent practitioners (non-employee physicians, advanced practice nurses, and physician assistants);
- Students/trainees and volunteers.

The module also includes an option for reporting contract personnel. Please see the attached HCP vaccination summary. The protocol, reporting forms, survey and instructions are available on the NHSN website at http://www.cdc.gov/nhsn/hps_Vacc.html

Please forward this circular letter to all persons in your healthcare facility responsible for infection prevention, employee health, and quality management reporting including: Infection Preventionists, Occupational Health Professionals, Chief Nursing Officers, Directors of Quality Improvement, and Directors of Human Resources.

Seasonal influenza vaccination is an effective method of preventing influenza virus infection and its potentially serious complications. MDPH is committed to working with you to ensure that patients and personnel are protected. Thank you for your ongoing participation in this important initiative. Please submit questions concerning the reporting and data submission requirements to the Bureau of Health Care Safety and Quality at dhcq.fludata@state.ma.us

CC: Acute Care Hospital Infection Preventionists,
Acute Care Hospital Occupational Health Professionals,
John Auerbach, Commissioner,
Alfred DeMaria, MD, Bureau of Infectious Diseases



Healthcare Personnel Influenza Vaccination Summary

Page 1 of 2
*required for saving

Record the number of healthcare personnel (HCP) for each category below for the influenza season being tracked.				
*Facility ID#:				
*Vaccination type: Influenza	*Influenza subtype: <input type="checkbox"/> Seasonal	*Influenza Season ^a :	Date Last Modified: ___/___/___	
	Employee HCP	Non-Employee HCP		
	*Employees (staff on facility payroll)	*Licensed independent practitioners: Physicians, advanced practice nurses, & physician assistants	*Adult students/trainees & volunteers	Other Contract Personnel
1. Number of HCP who worked at this healthcare facility for at least 30 days between October 1 & March 31				
2. Number of HCP who received an influenza vaccination at this healthcare facility since influenza vaccine became available this season				
3. Number of HCP who provided a written report or documentation of influenza vaccination outside this healthcare facility since influenza vaccine became available this season				
4. Number of HCP who have a medical contraindication to the influenza vaccine				
5. Number of HCP who declined to receive the influenza vaccine				
6. Number of HCP with unknown vaccination status (or criteria not met for questions 2-5 above)				
Custom Fields				
Label		Label		
	/ /		/ /	
Comments				
^a For the purposes of NHSN, a flu season is defined as July 1 to June 30.				
Assurance of Confidentiality: The voluntarily provided information obtained in this surveillance system that would permit identification of any				

individual or institution is collected with a guarantee that it will be held in strict confidence, will be used only for the purposes stated, and will not otherwise be disclosed or released without the consent of the individual, or the institution in accordance with Sections 304, 306 and 308(d) of the Public Health Service Act (42 USC 242b, 242k, and 242m(d)).
CDC 57.214 v7.0

Healthcare Personnel Influenza Vaccination Summary

Page 2 of 2

Question 1 (Denominator) Notes:

- Include all HCP who have worked at the facility for at least 30 working days during the reporting period, regardless of clinical responsibility or patient contact. This includes HCP who joined after October 1 or left before March 31, or who were on extended leave during part of the reporting period. Working for any number of hours a day counts as one working day.
- Include both full-time and part-time persons. If an HCW works in two or more facilities, each facility should include the HCW in their denominator. Count HCP as individuals rather than full-time equivalents.
- Licensed practitioners who receive a direct paycheck from the reporting facility, or who are owners of the reporting facility, should be counted as employees.
- The HCP categories are mutually exclusive. Each HCP should be counted only once in the denominator (question 1).

Questions 2-6 (Numerator) Notes:

- Questions 2-6 are mutually exclusive. The sum of the HCP in questions 2-6 should equal the number of HCP in question 1 for each HCP category. Questions 2-6 are to be reported separately for each of the three HCP categories.
- Only the following HCP should be counted in question 4: HCP with (1) a severe allergic reaction to eggs or other vaccine component(s) or (2) a history of Guillain-Barré Syndrome within 6 weeks after a previous influenza vaccination.
- The following should be counted in question 5 (declined to receive influenza vaccine):
 - HCP who declined vaccination because of conditions **other than** those included in question 4.
 - HCP who declined vaccination and did not provide any other information.
 - HCP who did not receive vaccination because of religious exemptions.
 - HCP who deferred vaccination for the entire influenza season (i.e. from October 1 to March 31).