



Livingston County

Department of Public Health

Communicable Disease Update

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FLUMIST

The CDC's Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices (ACIP) voted in favor of an interim recommendation that live attenuated influenza vaccine (LAIV), also known as the "nasal spray" flu vaccine FluMist, not be used during the 2016-2017 flu season.

Vaccine effectiveness data during the 2015-2016 season indicated that LAIV offered no significant protection against the predominant flu virus among study participants age 2 through 17 years of age. The reason for decreased effectiveness with LAIV is currently unknown.

In comparison, flu shots IIV had a vaccine effectiveness estimate of 63 percent against any flu virus among children 2 years through 17 years. Overall vaccine effectiveness (all ages, all flu viruses) for IIV was 49 percent, indicating that millions of people were protected against flu last season. Flu vaccines continue to be the first and best way to prevent influenza.

This change in the ACIP recommendation is an example of using new available data to ensure public health actions are most beneficial. ACIP continues to recommend annual flu vaccination for everyone 6 months and older. The final annual recommendations on the prevention and control of influenza with vaccines will be published in a CDC Morbidity and Mortality Weekly Report (MMWR), Recommendations and Reports, usually in late summer or early fall.

ZOSTAVAX

The Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices (ACIP) recommends Zoster vaccine for persons age 60 and older for the prevention of shingles. We encourage all adult providers to consider Zostavax for your patients. If you do not offer Zostavax in your practice, and your patients have Medicare Part D, it may be covered at a local pharmacy. Zoster vaccine is available at the Livingston County Department of Public Health (LCDPH) for a cost. If your patients' insurance does not include coverage for the vaccine, or your patients do not have insurance and they are age 60 or older, they may qualify for zoster vaccine at reduced-cost through LCDPH via special grant funding.

STI ACTION TEAM MEMBERS NEEDED

Reduction in the incidence of sexually transmitted infections has been identified as a strategic health issue in Livingston County and we are looking for team members to join us as we plan and implement actions toward that goal. Becoming a team member may involve a limited number of meetings (2-4/year) to share your ideas and expertise. If interested, please contact Kris Moyer at LCDPH at (517) 552-6828 or kmoyer@livgov.com.

ANIMAL BITES

Now that summer is upon us, animal bite reports are also on the rise. Questions often arise regarding rabies post-exposure prophylaxis (PEP), and LCDPH staff are available 24 hours a day, seven days per week to answer those questions. In general, a healthy domestic dog, cat, or ferret that bites a person should be confined at home and observed by Animal Control in ten days. Any illness in the animal during the confinement period should be evaluated by a veterinarian and reported immediately to LCDPH. If the biting animal is stray or unwanted, it should either be confined at Animal Control and observed for ten days or be euthanized immediately and submitted for rabies examination. Wild animals, such as skunks, raccoons, foxes, and bats that bite humans should be euthanized and tested for rabies as soon as possible. Decisions to start rabies PEP should be based on the type of exposure and the animal involved, as well as laboratory and epidemiologic information.

ZIKA VIRUS

Zika virus, an emerging infection that is transmitted by Aedes mosquitoes, the same vectors as dengue fever and chikungunya, generally causes only mild illness in infected individuals who develop symptoms. The most common symptoms are fever, rash, joint pain, and red eyes that range in duration from days to one week. Zika can be passed from a pregnant woman to her fetus. Infection during pregnancy can cause birth defects, including microcephaly. Guillain-Barre Syndrome (GBS) is an uncommon sickness of the nervous system. CDC is investigating the link between Zika and GBS.

To date, no local mosquito-borne Zika virus disease cases have been reported in the continental US, but lab tests have confirmed Zika virus in travelers returning to the US and in non-travelers who had sex with a returning traveler. In Michigan, as of July 12, 2016, 12 (non-pregnant) individuals have tested positive for Zika virus out of more than 550 individuals tested. Testing for Zika virus, in addition to dengue and chikungunya, is now available at the Michigan Department of Health and Human Services (MDHHS) Bureau of Labs (BOL) as part of a new “Emerging Arbovirus Panel”. The mosquitoes that transmit Zika virus have not been detected in Michigan, but the MDHHS will continue to identify cases of Zika virus in residents who travel to areas where Zika virus is being transmitted locally. For updated Michigan guidance documents, please visit www.michigan.gov/emergingdiseases.

BECOME A MICHIGAN INFLUENZA SENTINEL PROVIDER

Medical providers of any specialty (e.g. family medicine, internal medicine, pediatrics, infectious disease) in nearly any setting (e.g. private practice, urgent care center, emergency department, university student health center) who are likely to see patients with influenza-like illness can be sentinel providers. The benefits of being a sentinel physician include: free laboratory testing (respiratory virus culture) for approximately eleven specimens per site per year; weekly feedback on submitted data; summaries of regional, state, and national influenza data; and more. For information about becoming a sentinel provider please contact MDHHS at (517) 335-3385.

Call LCDPH at (517) 546-9850 to report or consult about a communicable disease. We are available 24/7. If it is after business hours, call 911 and they will contact the appropriate staff.