



Swatches

Connecting Rural Iowa

December 2012 - Special Edition

Influenza Vaccine's Positive Effect on Heart Health

The Iowa Rural Health Association is pleased to be able to share reliable information that can benefit rural health care organizations, providers and communities.

In October 2012, two Toronto, Canada researchers released studies at the Canadian Cardiovascular Congress which indicated that the Influenza vaccine could be an important treatment for maintaining heart health. [Click here](#) for link. Further comprehensive studies are needed to see the reduction in non-fatal cardiac events. Future studies, practices and policy regarding influenza vaccinations for the public and healthcare workers may have far reaching impact.

Historically, immunizations are among public health's most significant achievements. Infectious diseases once common in the U.S., including polio, measles, diphtheria, pertussis, rubella, mumps, tetanus, and Haemophilus influenzae type b are now rare because of the widespread use of vaccines. During the past decade many new vaccines were introduced and added to the recommended immunization schedule. Routine childhood immunizations have helped protect both individuals and communities, each year saving nearly \$14 billion in direct medical costs and \$69 billion in costs to society.

Iowa Initiative - In 2005, Iowa Healthcare Collaborative (IHC) and the state Healthcare-Associated Infections (HAI) Work Group developed a provider-led initiative to improve HAI in Iowa. This group selected a series of measures based on the 2005 CDC Healthcare Infection Control Practices Advisory Committee (HICPAC) report, and established a statewide goal of having 95% of hospital workers immunized by influenza by 2010. Although IHC

did not meet this goal, they did become national leaders in the area of HCW immunizations. Today Iowa hospitals HCW immunization rate is 92%.

Resources

<http://www.sciencedaily.com/releases/2012/10/121028141719.htm>

Iowa Immunization Program - Annual Report 2011
<http://www.idph.state.ia.us/ImmTB/Immunization.aspx?prog=Imm&pg=ImmHome>

Iowa Healthcare Collaborative - Healthcare Worker Influenza Vaccination Reporting Updates
<http://www.ihconline.org/asp/newsdetail.aspx?nid=52>

Centers for Disease Control & Prevention - Vaccines and Immunizations <http://www.cdc.gov/vaccines/default.htm>