

Seqirus Media Monitoring

15th Nov 2017

Seqirus mentions

CDC Updates Guidelines for Seasonal Influenza Vaccines

Updated recommendations from the Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices for influenza vaccinations in 2017 and 2018 were recently published in the US Centers for Disease Control and Prevention's Morbidity and Mortality Weekly Report. Two new licensures are supplied in the update, Flublok Quadrivalent and Afluria Quadrivalent for use in persons ≥ 18 years of age

<http://www.infectiousdiseaseadvisor.com/influenza/cdc-seasonal-influenza-vaccines-guidelines-updated/article/707037/>

Pandemic Influenza News

South Korea: H5N2 In Wild Bird Feces Determined To Be LPAI

South Korea was testing H5N2 samples collected on Jeju Island for pathogenicity, and now the results have come back as low pathogenicity

<http://afludiary.blogspot.com/2017/11/south-korea-h5n2-in-wild-bird-feces.html>

B&E: Assessing The Airborne Spread Of Avian Influenza From LPMs

The link between China's live poultry markets and the spread avian flu strains has been well established, with a case-control study released in 2014 citing even casual exposure to poultry in live bird markets as the primary risk factor for infection. While most H7N9 human infections have been linked to exposure to infected birds, a not insignificant number of cases have no known poultry exposure. Some of those, however, either lived near or regularly passed by live bird markets, leading to speculation that viable virus particles may travel beyond the confines of the LPM

<http://afludiary.blogspot.com/2017/11/b-assessing-airborne-spread-of-avian.html>

New avian flu outbreaks noted as USDA OK's DNA poultry vaccine

In the latest avian flu developments, Bulgaria and South Africa reported outbreaks from highly pathogenic strains, and a US vaccine company announced that the US Department of Agriculture has conditionally approved the first DNA avian flu vaccine for chickens

<http://www.cidrap.umn.edu/news-perspective/2017/11/new-avian-flu-outbreaks-noted-usda-oks-dna-poultry-vaccine>

Genesis and Spread of Newly Emerged Highly Pathogenic H7N9 Avian Viruses in Mainland China

A study analyzed the sequences of HPAI H7N9 viruses from 28 human and 21 environmental samples covering eight provinces in China that were taken from November 2016 to June 2017. The results show that the ancestor virus of the HPAI H7N9 viruses originated in the Yangtze River Delta region. However, the insertion of four amino acids into the HA protein cleavage site of an LPAI H7N9 virus occurred in late May 2016 in the Pearl River Delta region. The mutated HPAI H7N9 virus further reassorted with LPAI H7N9 or H9N2 viruses that were cocirculating in poultry. Considering the rapid geographical expansion of the HPAI H7N9 viruses, effective control measures are urgently needed

<http://jvi.asm.org/content/91/23/e01277-17.abstract>

Avian flu sub-type H5N8 found in Tivoli - health authority update from the outbreak area

The outbreak happened Nov 3rd in the Tivoli region and was detected on a non-commercial breeding farm. The Veterinarian services sprang into action to limit the extent of the outbreak, and then on Nov 9th a new health ordinance came into force, introducing special health and surveillance

measures to be enforced

<http://www.tiburno.tv/tivoli/item/19074-focolaio-aviaria-del-sottotipo-h5n8-a-tivoli-aggiornamento-dal-comune>

Highly pathogenic bird flu virus detected in Shimane

The Environment Ministry said on Thursday (9) that a wild swan found dead in a lake in western Japan was infected with a highly contagious avian influenza virus, confirming it as the first case of the disease in the country this season. A detailed examination conducted at Tottori University has determined the presence of the H5N6 type, which has caused severe epidemics in Japan and Asia in the past, according to the ministry. The dead white swan was found near Shinji Lake in Matsue (Shimane) on Sunday and tested positive for bird flu in a simple examination conducted by the provincial government health authorities

<http://www.portalmie.com/atualidade/cotidiano/saude/2017/11/virus-altamente-patogenico-da-gripe-aviaria-e-detecta-do-em-shimane/>

Industry News

Cadila Healthcare's Q2 net up 33% to Rs 503 cr

In India, Cadila Healthcare reported a net profit growth of 33 per cent in second quarter ended September 30. During the quarter, the company launched four new products in the US including Mesalamine Delayed Release 1.2 g tablets and approval for 32 new products, including the generic version of Tamiflu suspension (Oseltamivir Powder for Oral Suspension 6 mg/ ml)

http://www.business-standard.com/article/companies/cadila-healthcare-s-q2-net-up-33-to-rs-503-cr-117111401320_1.html

Fluarix Tetra to be reimbursed by French state healthcare

The trade publication for the pharmaceutical industry reports that in France, the flu vaccine Fluarix Tetra is set to be reimbursed at a rate of 65% by the state healthcare programme from 18th November 2017

<http://www.lemoniteurdespharmacies.fr/actu/actualites/actus-medicaments/171114-fluarix-tetra-rembourse.html>

Opinion: Where's the data? Missing trial results undermine pandemic preparedness

In the fight to control global pandemics, public health agencies and governments face a monumental challenge: The results of around half of all clinical trials are not public, leaving huge gaps in medical knowledge. The invisibility of medical research results may make it difficult, if not impossible, to tell which drugs and vaccines work. Tamiflu remains a useful example of what can go wrong

<https://www.devex.com/news/opinion-where-s-the-data-missing-trial-results-undermine-pandemic-preparedness-91162>

New survey shines light on critical gaps in adult vaccination knowledge

A new survey shows that among some adults in America there is a lack of awareness around the immunizations they may need as adults. The survey, commissioned by GSK and conducted by Ipsos MORI, showed that fewer than three in ten Americans are aware of and have received the vaccines recommended for adults their age, with 65 percent of adults not up to date. Knowledge that vaccines prevent the flu and tetanus is high, but adult vaccination rates for these diseases and others remain low

<http://markets.businessinsider.com/news/stocks/New-survey-shines-light-on-critical-gaps-in-adult-vaccination-knowledge-1008004121>

UGA research team explores impact of age on response to influenza vaccine

A team of researchers at the Center of Vaccines and Immunology at the University of Georgia has published a study that examines the relationship between age and previous exposure to influenza on a population's reaction to the flu vaccine. The study is the product of an ongoing collaboration

between UGA and Sanofi Pasteur. The goal of this research is to develop a more broadly protective influenza vaccine that could protect against multiple strains of the virus as an improvement to the current vaccine

<http://news.uga.edu/releases/article/uga-research-team-explores-impact-of-age-on-response-to-influenza-vaccine/>

Celltrion to test combo therapy of new flu antibody drug, Tamiflu

In Korea, Celltrion said it plans to launch a clinical trial on a combination therapy of CT-P27, a new influenza antibody therapy to treat patients with influenza A, and Tamiflu. The Ministry of Food and Drug Safety approved the firm's plan for phase 2a clinical trial on CT-P27. Celltrion hopes that CT-P27 can replace existing flu treatments such as Tamiflu

<http://www.koreabiomed.com/news/articleView.html?idxno=1883>

Academic studies

Three decades of responding to infectious disease outbreaks

Soon after his appointment in 1984 as director of the National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases (NIAID), Anthony S. Fauci, M.D., testified before Congress showing a world map annotated with a single emerging infectious disease threat, HIV/AIDS. Since then, chikungunya, H1N1 influenza, SARS, West Nile, Ebola and Zika viruses were added. In an essay in *Annals of Internal Medicine* published online today, Dr. Fauci reflects on the ways efforts have been marshalled to address infectious disease outbreaks of the past three decades

<http://www.nih.gov/news-events/news-releases/three-decades-responding-infectious-disease-outbreaks>

Why the Flu Can be Fatal

"Flu deaths are commonly caused by lower respiratory tract infections and pneumonia - a leading cause of death from infectious disease," explains Jose Villadangos, from the University of Melbourne. "The risk of pneumonia is particularly high for critically ill patients recovering from their first flu infection episode. "After an initial severe infection, patients may be at high risk of contracting secondary infections and developing fatal pneumonia." Villadangos and his team discovered this is due to our immune systems being left paralyzed by the initial infection

<https://www.laboratoryequipment.com/news/2017/11/why-flu-can-be-fatal>

Pediatric influenza news

Victoria flags tougher "No Jab No Play" childcare vaccine laws

Families in Victoria, Australia, will need to provide more proof their child has been vaccinated in order to attend kindergartens and childcare centres under tougher "No Jab No Play" laws. The proposed laws will make it more difficult for children to remain unimmunised in a bid to crack down further on the anti-vaccination movement

<http://www.theage.com.au/victoria/victoria-flags-tougher-no-jab-no-play-childcare-vaccine-laws-20171114-gzlhb8.htm>

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Childhood Vaccination Rates Remain High, Say Speakers

A combination of public health awareness campaigns, scientific advances and documentation is helping to keep the rate of childhood vaccination high despite objections from parents concerned about vaccines. Speakers at the 2017 AAFP State Legislative Conference discussed successes in vaccination and what physicians can do to maintain or even expand those success stories

<http://www.aafp.org/news/health-of-the-public/20171114statevaccs.html>

Schools to stay well this winter with flu jab drive

In the UK, parents are being urged to protect their children from flu by taking advantage of a free vaccination programme. All of South Tyneside's primary schools are taking part in the initiative which sees youngsters receive the vaccine through a nasal spray. The move is part of the Stay Well

this Winter campaign which is encouraging those who are eligible to take up the offer
<http://www.shieldsgazette.com/news/health/schools-to-stay-well-this-winter-with-flu-jab-drive-1-8854455>

Over 65's influenza news

Aged-care visitors pose flu risk: Vic govt

Aged care home staff and visitors should be part of a multi-pronged vaccination program following flu deaths at two facilities in two states, the Victorian government says. The recommendation from Health Minister Jill Hennessy follows a federal government review that found only one-third of workers at two regional aged care homes in Victoria and Tasmania received shots before a deadly outbreak killed 16 residents

<http://thewest.com.au/news/health/vic-tas-homes-failed-over-deadly-flu-ng-s-1797154>

How could an adjuvanted vaccine help GPs tackle flu?

With the NHS poised to face one of the worst flu seasons in recent years, experts have raised concerns that the elderly in particular could fare poorly. RCGP immunisation lead Dr George Kassianos has championed use of an adjuvanted vaccine, which will not be available for UK GPs to order until the 2018/19 season onwards. He said it was 'a shame' that the vaccine was not licensed for use in the UK until next year, and urged practices to order it for next year

<http://www.gponline.com/adjuvanted-vaccine-help-gps-tackle-flu/infections-and-infestations/influenza/article/1450128>

Latrobe nursing home where six people died during flu outbreak on notice following audit

A Tasmanian nursing home where six people died during a flu outbreak in August could be hit with sanctions if it does not improve its quality of care by mid-December. The review found while the organisation arranged influenza vaccinations, only 27 of 76 staff were immunised. Council of the ageing chief executive Sue Leitch said it showed there was a need for mandatory vaccinations for aged care employees

<http://www.abc.net.au/news/2017-11-14/nursing-home-where-six-people-died-on-notice-following-audit/9150432>

Review into influenza outbreaks in aged care reveals more needs to be done

The review of the St Johns facilities in Wangaratta, Victoria and the Strathdevon facility in Latrobe, Tasmania, were at the heart of the review ordered by Federal Minister for Aged Care Ken Wyatt and conducted by the Australian Aged Care Quality Agency. The Federal Minister for Health, Greg Hunt, has moved to make it mandatory for aged care facilities to implement flu vaccination programs for staff, with Chief Medical Officer Dr Brendan Murphy currently examining all options to increase vaccination rates

<http://www.agedcareguide.com.au/talking-aged-care/review-into-influenza-outbreaks-in-aged-care-reveals-more-needs-to-be-done>

General Influenza News

Influenza complicates diabetes

Diabetes is the ninth leading cause of death in women worldwide, leading to 2.1 million deaths per year. Therefore, vaccination against influenza is a priority issue for all those living with diabetes, and preventing this disease is an absolute must for all of those in the most at-risk groups

<http://www.cronica.com.mx/notas/2017/1052463.html>

West Sussex employers encouraged to join fight to keep flu at bay

Some of the biggest employers throughout West Sussex, UK, are taking steps to keep flu at bay by offering free vaccinations to all staff. Hundreds of employees at West Sussex County Council and the local NHS have already taken advantage of this opportunity, and now both organisations are encouraging as many people as possible to protect themselves from flu too

<http://www.wscountytimes.co.uk/news/health/west-sussex-employers-encouraged-to-join-fight-to-keep-flu-at-bay-1-8244022>

It's your best shot against the flu

In the U.S., protestors have brought up the dangers of Thimerosal, a mercury-based preservative which they say is linked to organ damage, and a study showing a link between flu shots and a higher risk of miscarriage as to why they encourage people to educate themselves. But officials said that the prefilled syringes they use do not contain Thimerosal, and that the authors of that study, which used a small cohort of testing subjects, said there is no provable link, no causal relationship between flu shots and miscarriage

<http://www.norwichbulletin.com/news/20171114/its-your-best-shot-against-flu>

How common are flu shot side effects?

Many people fear getting a flu shot because of the needle, but too many also are convinced that the vaccine has too many side effects and too few benefits to be worth the trouble. This article explains what side effects can be expected and why flu vaccination is a good idea

<http://www.foxnews.com/health/2017/11/14/how-common-are-flu-shot-side-effects.html>

Flu jabs are no joke

UK pharmacists will receive a joke-telling masterclass from a Britain's Got Talent finalist to help improve the efficacy of their seasonal flu vaccinations. Comedian Christian Lee has helped draft a memo to all 255 pharmacists working for supermarket Asda, following the publication of research that showed that flu vaccinations offered greater protection to patients who were cheerful when they received the jab

<http://www.pharmaceutical-journal.com/news-and-analysis/news-in-brief/flu-jabs-are-no-joke/20203930.article>

Burden of disease

Province reports four deaths from influenza so far this season

The total number of people dead from influenza in Alberta, Canada, sits at four, two weeks into the season. The number of laboratory cases of influenza has also jumped to 408, up from 300 in the first week. Out of those cases, 345 are of the Influenza A strain, while 52 are from the Influenza B strain. The remaining 11 are from strains not yet known. A total of 639,305 doses of influenza vaccine have been issued so far this season

<http://rdnewsnow.com/article/561285/province-reports-four-deaths-influenza-so-far-season>

Flu outbreak shuts Dumfries hospital ward

In Scotland, a hospital ward at Dumfries Infirmary has been shut due to a flu outbreak. Infection Control Manager Elaine Ross said there had been an increase in flu cases both in the hospital and in the wider community, and recommended people get vaccinated

<http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-scotland-south-scotland-41981939>

First SC flu death of season confirmed by DHEC

Tuesday the South Carolina Department of Health and Environment Control announced the first flu-associated death of this year's flu season. DHEC would not provide the age of the deceased individual. People were reminded of the importance of getting a flu shot

<http://abcnews4.com/news/healthandfitness/first-sc-flu-death-of-season-confirmed-by-dhec>

Toddler's Tragic Flu Death Sparks Urgent Warnings to Get Kids Vaccinated

California officials are issuing a tragic warning that flu season is officially here after a toddler died from the flu in Orange County. The child died from complications related to Influenza A. Officials tell ABC 7 the toddler was not vaccinated against the flu but was otherwise healthy

http://thestir.cafemom.com/parenting_news/208679/toddler_dies_flu_california

Doctors seeing flu cases early this year in Mid-South

Doctors in the U.S. Mid-South are already seeing cases of the flu, which is a lot earlier than it's been in recent years. They're urging everyone to get the flu shot, as the flu kills thousands of people every year and there's no telling how long it'll last this season

<http://wreg.com/2017/11/13/doctors-seeing-flu-cases-early-this-year-in-mid-south/>

Arizona officials report big uptick in flu cases over last year

Many more people have been sickened by the flu this season compared to the same time last year, Arizona officials said Monday. "We've had 250 cases of flu reported so far this year across the state," Jessica Rigler, chief of the Bureau of Epidemiology and Disease Control at the Arizona Department of Health Services, said

<http://ktar.com/story/1831089/arizona-officials-report-big-uptick-flu-cases-last-year/>

Woman dies of suspected H1N1 in Itapetininga

The Epidemiological Surveillance of Itapetininga (SP) reported another death registered in the city on Monday, due to suspected H1N1 flu. According to the agency, it was a 44-year-old woman who lived in Angatuba (SP) who died on Thursday after being hospitalized in Itapetininga. The municipal administration said tests were being done on the victim and the result will be released in 20 days. In addition, the block where the woman lived will be checked over after the diagnosis of the disease is confirmed.

<http://g1.globo.com/sao-paulo/itapetininga-regiao/noticia/mulher-morre-com-suspeita-de-h1n1-em-itapetininga.ghtml>