

Seqirus Media Monitoring

3rd Oct 2017

News Highlights

Prepare for a Rocky Flu Season For those 65 and up, experts recommend two stronger vaccines: Fluad, made using an adjuvant, which helps create a stronger immune response in the body and first became available last year, and Fluzone High-Dose, which contains four times the amount of antigen as the regular vaccine

Quebec doctors will soon be allowed to sell vaccines Health officials in Quebec are bracing for a difficult flu season after multiple indications that the disease struck Australia particularly hard this year. This has Health Minister Gaetan Barrette considering making changes about how vaccines are distributed in Quebec

ADImmune readies flu vaccine for China and U.S. ADImmune's flu vaccine is now available to people around Taiwan after the company obtained the approval of the health authorities. In the U.S., quadrivalent vaccines which ADImmune developed in collaboration with Protein Sciences have been approved by the U.S. FDA and will soon be available in that market

Regeneron Announces New Collaborations with HHS to Develop Antibodies Against Ebola, Influenza and Multiple Other Emerging Pathogens Regeneron announced two new collaborations with the Biomedical Advanced Research and Development Authority to develop new treatments combating infectious diseases, the first being focused on discovery, research, development and manufacturing of a portfolio of antibodies targeting up to 10 pathogens that pose significant risk to public health, starting with Influenza virus

Alere Receives FDA Clearance for Alere i Influenza A & B 2 Rapid Molecular Test Alere announced that its Alere i Influenza A & B 2 test has received 510(k) marketing clearance from the U.S. Food and Drug Administration for the detection of influenza A and B infection in children and adults

More than 100 elderly killed by influenza in Australian state A horror flu season has resulted in the deaths of 116 people in an Australian state's aged care system, it has been revealed. The Victorian Government on Monday pledged an additional 89.9 million U.S. dollars for the state's health system to help it deal with the deadly influenza virus

Severe flu outbreak this winter could kill 1,000 people, doctors warn A severe flu outbreak this winter could kill 1,000 people, doctors warned today in Ireland. HSE Assistant National Director for Health Protection, Dr Kevin Kelleher urged all healthcare workers to get the flu vaccine

30 ostrich farms under quarantine due to Avian Flu Western Cape province minister of economic opportunities Alan Winde said his province had suffered the most with reported cases of Avian Influenza in the country. So far this year, the province has confirmed 36 cases and 70 ostrich farms are under quarantine

Seqirus mentions

Prepare for a Rocky Flu Season

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<https://www.msn.com/en-us/health/medical/prepare-for-a-rocky-flu-season/ar-AA5NCPO>

Optimal Influenza Treatment: Understand Influenza Testing

Antiviral treatment should be started within 24 hours if a patient is suspected of having the flu, and prescribers can use one of a number of FDA-approved agents (amantadine and rimantadine for

influenza A; oseltamivir phosphate, peramivir, and zanamavir for circulating influenza viruses) to treat patients

<http://www.pharmacytimes.com/resource-centers/flu/optimal-influenza-treatment-understand-influenza-testing>

Pandemic Influenza News

Quantum Foods severely hampered by Avian flu outbreak

Egg producer Quantum Foods temporarily closed down the remaining two sites of the Lemoenkloof commercial layer farm as the outbreak of highly pathogenic Avian Influenza continued to plague its eggs farms in the Western Cape

<https://www.iol.co.za/business-report/companies/quantum-foods-severely-hampered-by-avian-flu-outbreak-11457379>

30 ostrich farms under quarantine due to Avian Flu

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<https://www.iol.co.za/business-report/30-ostrich-farms-under-quarantine-due-to-avian-flu-11459039>

U.S. POULTRY Foundation Approves \$125,000 in New Avian Influenza Research

The U.S. POULTRY Foundation has approved \$125,000 in additional emergency funding to support avian influenza research and communication

<http://www.thepoultrysite.com/poultrynews/39248/uspoultry-foundation-approves-125000-in-new-avian-influenza-research/>

Biological Weapons and Virtual Terrorism

Today the simple do-it-yourself CRISPR kits could enable virtual terrorists targeting the food supply chain to alter the avian influenza genome and engineer a large bird flu epidemic, similar to the 2009 H1N1 epidemic in Asia that affected not only poultry, but also other mammals, including human beings

http://www.huffingtonpost.com/entry/biological-weapons-and-virtual-terrorism_us_59d23151e4b034ae778d4c3c

Industry News

Vaccines update - what vaccines will be available against flu this season

An update from Ukrainian health authorities includes several vaccines: Influvac, Waxin, GIS Flu and Vaxigrip in the available vaccines list

<https://kp.ua/life/588259-vaktsyny-obnovliauit-chem-budem-pryvyvatsia-ot-hryppa-v-etom-sezone>

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<http://focustaiwan.tw/news/asoc/201710020032.aspx>

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<http://markets.businessinsider.com/news/stocks/Regeneron-Announces-New-Collaborations-with-HHS-to-Develop-Antibodies-Against-Ebola-Influenza-and-Multiple-Other-Emerging-Pathogens-1002913600>

Additional sources: (Reuters) (PR Newswire.com) (Yahoo Finance)

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<https://finance.yahoo.com/news/alere-receives-fda-clearance-alere-110000087.html>

Additional sources: ([Reuters](#)) ([Street Insider.com](#)) ([Nasdaq](#))

Academic studies

Bond health center chosen as site to study links between flu vaccine and heart disease

Bond Community Health Center has been selected as an enrollment site to study the link between the flu vaccine and heart disease. The clinic will participate in INVESTED — Influenza Vaccine to Effectively Stop Cardio Thoracic Events and Decompensated Heart Failure

<http://www.tallahassee.com/story/life/2017/10/02/bond-health-center-chosen-site-study-links-between-flu-vaccine-and-heart-disease/723564001/>

Pediatric influenza news

Flu vaccine in Wales extended to Year 4 pupils

The annual campaign in Wales covers children aged from two up to nine, pregnant women, over-65s and those with certain medical conditions. Children in nursery, reception and Year 1 to 4 can all now receive nasal spray vaccines in school

<http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-wales-41469911>

Vaccination: Nurses strike and the coming disease crisis

Kenya is staring into a huge health crisis as hundreds of thousands of children are going without vaccination due to a prolonged nurses strike

<http://www.nation.co.ke/health/Vaccination-Nurses-strike-and-the-coming-disease-crisis/3476990-4121352-15blt8dz/index.html>

Recommendations for Prevention and Control of Influenza in Children, 2017 - 2018

The American Academy of Pediatrics recommends annual seasonal influenza immunization for everyone 6 months and older, including children and adolescents

<http://pediatrics.aappublications.org/content/140/4/e20172550>

Over 65's influenza news

Adults can prevent illness with vaccinations

The CDC says nearly three-quarters of people hospitalized with flu-related illness are 65 or older, and most flu deaths are among elderly people. A variety of flu vaccines are now available: the traditional flu shot, a high-dose vaccine for people aged 65 and older, and an intradermal vaccine that uses a smaller needle injected into the skin instead of muscle

<http://www.myplainview.com/news/article/Adults-can-prevent-illness-with-vaccinations-12246070.php>

More than 100 elderly killed by influenza in Australian state

A horror flu season has resulted in the deaths of 116 people in an Australian state's aged care system, it has been revealed. The Victorian Government on Monday pledged an additional 89.9 million U.S. dollars for the state's health system to help it deal with the deadly influenza virus

http://news.xinhuanet.com/english/2017-10/02/c_136654627.htm

Vaccine Expert Warns of Flu Risk to Elderly

Kathleen Neuzil, MD, Director of the Center for Vaccine Development at the University of Maryland School of Medicine, spoke at a press conference hosted by the National Foundation for Infectious Diseases, and cautioned that individuals 65 and older are at the highest risk of severe complications and even death from the flu

<http://www.umaryland.edu/news/archived-news/october-2017/newspressreleaseshottopics/vaccine-expert-warns-of-flu-risk-to-elderly.php>

General Influenza News

Doctors to millennials: Stay home when you have the flu

New research sheds light on a group of people who may be especially likely to spread the flu to others: millennials. According to the new survey of 1,800 American adults, millennials who have had the flu or flu-like symptoms were much more likely than those 35 and older to have ventured out the last time they felt sick, potentially exposing friends, neighbours and co-workers

<https://www.cbsnews.com/news/flu-symptoms-doctors-tell-millennials-stay-home/>

Flu vaccination: What you need to know

A campaign to encourage people to have a flu vaccination launches today (2 October). The Beat Flu Campaign is targeting eligible groups across Wales who need it most to protect themselves from influenza by getting the vaccination

<http://www.itv.com/news/wales/2017-10-02/flu-vaccination-what-you-need-to-know/>

Additional sources: ([South Wales Argue](#))

UAB Doctor says flu vaccines will better match flu strains this year

UAB Internal Medicine Specialist Doctor William Curry said vaccines will better match the H1N1 and H3N2 flu strains. The CDC reported flu vaccines have been updated to better match circulating viruses. But the CDC nor Dr. Curry is advocating for the nasal flu-mist

<http://abc3340.com/news/local/uab-doctor-says-flu-vaccines-will-better-match-flu-strains-this-year>

Patients 'have a right to ask doctors and nurses if they have received the flu vaccine'

Irish Health Minister Simon Harris has said health workers have an obligation to their patients to get the flu vaccine. Launching the annual flu vaccine campaign, he said while uptake levels are on the rise, the figures are still "appallingly" low with just 31% of hospital workers getting immunised last year

<http://www.thejournal.ie/simon-harris-flu-vaccine-3626183-Oct2017/>

Flu is found more during the winter season

Getting a flu shot from the month of October is the best way to avoid catching the virus as well as complications and potentially death

<http://www.cronica.com.mx/notas/2017/1046026.html>

The Milan region 'appeals' to doctors and nurses: if you are not in the vaccination queue you should carry out vaccinations

The number of healthworkers waiting vax is higher than they would wish and the region govt prefers them to get vaccinated as soon as possible

http://milano.repubblica.it/cronaca/2017/10/02/news/appello_della_regione_a_medici_e_infermieri_chi_non_e_in_regola_dovrebbe_vaccinarsi_-177077924/

Vaccination against the flu in Costa Rica has hit 93% of the target population

In Costa Rica, the vaccination campaign against the flu has reached 93% of the target population; the elderly and young children were particularly successful groups

<https://www.larepublica.net/noticia/vacunacion-contra-la-influenza-llego-al-93-de-la-poblacion-meta>

Only vaccination in October is successful in preventing you catching winter flu

In Mexico, people are being reminded that the best way to avoid catching the flu is being immunised in October so that the vaccine has time to work

<https://www.elsoldesanluis.com.mx/municipios/matehuala/solo-la-vacuna-para-prevenir-influenza-en-octubre-es-efectiva-para-el-invierno>

Experts advise on how best to combat the flu with vaccination this autumn

Magdeburg - People who are particularly vulnerable with weak immune systems - seniors, chronically ill and small children should be at the front of the queue for flu vaccinations

<https://www.merkur.de/leben/gesundheit/experten-raten-im-herbst-zur-grippe-impfung-zr-8736555.html>

Influenza - the best protection is get yourself vaccinated

Area health experts stress in regional press just how important it is for at risk groups to get vaccinated against the flu

<http://www.augsburger-allgemeine.de/wissenschaft/Grippewelle-Bester-Schutz-soll-Impfung-sein-id42750551.html>

Influenza - Sachsen-Anhalt health experts offer strong recommendations in favour of getting yourself vaccinated now

Area health experts stress in regional press just how important it is for at risk groups to get vaccinated against the flu

<https://www.welt.de/regionales/sachsen-anhalt/article169237124/Experten-raten-zur-Impfung.html>

Severe flu outbreak this winter could kill 1,000 people, doctors warn

A severe flu outbreak this winter could kill 1,000 people, doctors warned today in Ireland. HSE Assistant National Director for Health Protection, Dr Kevin Kelleher urged all healthcare workers to get the flu vaccine

<http://www.independent.ie/irish-news/health/severe-flu-outbreak-this-winter-could-kill-1000-people-doctors-warn-36189040.html>

Quebec doctors will soon be allowed to sell vaccines

Health officials in Quebec are bracing for a difficult flu season after multiple indications that the disease struck Australia particularly hard this year. This has Health Minister Gaetan Barrette considering making changes about how vaccines are distributed in Quebec

<http://montreal.ctvnews.ca/quebec-doctors-will-soon-be-allowed-to-sell-vaccines-1.3615965>

Burden of disease

Boy, 10, fighting for in hospital life after contracting the flu

A Queensland boy is on life support after contracting the flu. Chinchilla boy Jaymon Gaul, 10, was rushed to hospital on September 23 after he was found by his mother in a non-responsive state

<http://www.couriermail.com.au/news/queensland/boy-10-fighting-for-in-hospital-life-after-contracting-the-flu/news-story/94a180fb5836ae835cb0a57f9059ec09>

Families hit by mutant flu epidemic desperate for help

The flu epidemic sweeping Australia with record-breaking ferocity is leaving children in comas and their families desperate

<http://www.news.com.au/lifestyle/health/health-problems/families-hit-by-mutant-flu-epidemic-desperate-for-help/news-story/bbfbe47eac043d8f07b524f0a0a67abe>