

# Influenza and MRSA

*The health of the people is really the foundation upon which all their happiness and all their powers as a state depend.*

**Benjamin Disraeli**

# Influenza

In the 2007 – 2008 influenza season, the CDC received reports of 83 children (younger than 18) in 33 states who died of flu-related causes during the season.

That compares with 68 children in the 2006-07 season and 35 children in 2005-06, according to previous CDC reports.

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# Influenza

The mean age of the children who died was 6.4 years, and the median was 5.0.

Of the 63 children older than 6 months whose vaccination status was known, 58 (92%) had not received flu shots.

Part of this increase in deaths is attributed to a bad match between circulating strains of virus and the vaccine

*The Northern Hemisphere contain  
A/Brisbane/59/2007-like (H1N1),  
A/Brisbane/10/2007-like (H3N2), and  
B/Florida/4/2006-like viruses.*

CDC says 83 children died of flu in 2007-08

Robert Roos News Editor CIDRAP

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# Influenza Vaccination

The Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices (ACIP) recommends annual influenza vaccination for the following groups:

- Persons at high risk for influenza-related complications and severe disease,

including

- children aged 6--59 months,

- pregnant women,

- persons aged  $\geq 50$  years,

- persons of any age with certain chronic medical conditions

*MMWR Recommendations and Reports July 28, 2006 /  
55(RR10);1-42*

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# Influenza Vaccination

Persons who live with or care for persons at high risk, including

- Household contacts who have frequent contact with persons at high risk and who can transmit influenza to those persons at high risk
- Health-care workers.

*MMWR Recommendations and Reports* July 28, 2006 /  
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# 2008 Influenza Vaccination

Beginning with the 2008--09 influenza season, annual vaccination of all children aged 5--18 years is recommended.

Annual vaccination of all children aged 5--18 years should begin in September or as soon as vaccine is available for the 2008--09 influenza season, if feasible, but annual vaccination of all children aged 5--18 years should begin no later than during the 2009--10 influenza season.

**Prevention and Control of Influenza  
Recommendations of the Advisory Committee on  
Immunization Practices (ACIP), 2008**

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# 2008 Influenza Vaccination

Children and adolescents at high risk for influenza complications should continue to be a focus of vaccination efforts as providers and programs transition to routinely vaccinating all children

Recently the Food and Drug Administration expanded the indication for FluMist to cover 2-, 3- and 4-year-olds; previously it was indicated only for healthy people aged 5 to 49 years.

**Prevention and Control of Influenza  
Recommendations of the Advisory Committee on  
Immunization Practices (ACIP), 2008**

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# Influenza Vaccination and Asthmatics

The CDC estimates that approximately 6.8 million (9.3%) U.S. children and 16.1 million (7.3%) U.S. adults were reported to have asthma in 2006

Using 2006 National Health Interview Survey (NHIS) data, vaccination rates were studied across a national sample of persons with asthma aged  $\geq 2$  years.

The results indicated that 36.2% received influenza vaccination during the 2005--06 influenza season.

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# Influenza Vaccination and Asthmatics

Vaccination rates in asthmatics were highest in those who had:

- A usual place of medical care
- More frequent office visits in last year
- Health insurance

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