

2017 Flu & Pneumonia Updates
Friday, September 15, 2017
Small Group Discussion

1. What did you find most surprising about the presentation?

- The vaccination rates for adults don't change much.
- (2) Individuals with an egg allergy can receive the flu vaccine because the egg product is so minimal. How can we approach and encourage this population?
- There wasn't any change in vaccination rates when Flumist was no longer recommended.
- The Pneumonia vaccination information was made clearer.
- Science changes; process for vaccine production has improved.
- All the different choices that are available.

2. What are barriers to flu and pneumonia immunization?

- No recommended
- Transportation
- Cost
- Anti-vaccine movement
- Education of flu vaccine (myth-busting):
 - Misperceptions about the need
 - One of the side effects is "giving the flu"/ people have gotten sick from it before
 - Shot doesn't give adequate coverage
- Vaccine availability at the time of the recommendation.
- Mistrust that it is not tested adequately.
- Lack of insurance
- Ill at the time the vaccine is available to them
- Refusals
- News Media
- Disease Process
- Information about the content of the vaccine
- Resistance from medical personnel

3. What kind of information do you think your constituents need to know about flu & pneumonia immunization?

- Go early in the season and get your flu shot
- It is never too late to get the influenza vaccine (don't stop giving the vaccination in December)
- How serious the flu actually is
- What vaccinations they have received
- The timing of the flu vs. pneumonia

4. What are some strategies that could be used to improve vaccination coverage for this population?

- More transparent; honesty about risks or ineffectiveness
- Free clinics
- Recommend the immunization and have the immunization available at the same time
- Promotion and education of flu & pneumonia vaccines
- Being a good role model and practicing what you preach (ie. Getting the immunization for yourself & for your family)
- Knowing what resources exist
- Letting people know that the vaccine has minimal egg product and thus doesn't cause a reaction
- Offer vaccinations on-site at schools, businesses, food pantries, etc.
- Consider the hours that vaccinations are offered
- Payment (employers cover the cost of the flu vaccine for their employees)
- Mandatory vaccination policy
- Community champion promoting vaccinations
- One-stop shop- offer vaccination to children and adults in the same place, so the whole family can get immunized together
- Tap into school nurses (deal with families as a whole)