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## ANA Updates

### Flu season officially in full swing, doctors warn

Flu activity is picking up around the country and is expected to keep increasing over the coming weeks.

"This year so far the most common strain of influenza circulating is influenza A, H3N2," said Dr. Nancy Messonnier, director of the National Center for Immunization and Respiratory Diseases.

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### Just how safe are vaccines? Here are the numbers

Anti-vaccine advocate Robert F. Kennedy Jr. said that President-elect Donald Trump asked him to lead a new government commission on vaccine safety. But science on this issue is already clear; numerous studies show that vaccines are safe and effective, and that serious side effects are rare.

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### Save The Date: National Adult Immunizations and Influenza Summit

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## About Us

The American Nurses Association continues to provide immunization knowledge and competence to the nation's 3.6 million registered nurses and all other healthcare professionals. ANAImmunize.org and ANA ImmuNews serves as a one-stop shop for resources needed by nurses to be competent, educated advocates and champions for immunizations. ([Click here](#)) for the ANA position on immunizations.



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Some publication Web sites may require user registration or subscription before access is granted to the Web links following the articles. If an article is unavailable online, a link is provided to that publication's homepage.

Registration is open for the National Adult Immunization and Influenza Summit on May 9-11, 2017 at the Hyatt Regency Atlanta, Atlanta, GA. Register using this case-sensitive password: 2017NAIIS

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## Disease Outbreak News

### Number of Mumps Cases in Spokane Grows to 44

Health officials in Spokane, Wash., have recorded 44 cases of the mumps in the city and say more cases are likely. According to the Spokane Regional Health District, 27 of the patients had been vaccinated, 8 were not vaccinated, and 9 had unknown vaccination statuses. Nearly half of the cases were among individuals aged 10-19 years, the SRHD said. Health officials are calling on people residents to make sure their children's and their own vaccinations are up-to-date.

From "Number of Mumps Cases in Spokane Grows to 44"  
*KREM.com (WA) (01/16/17)*

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## Immunization News

### Guidance for Assessment of Poliovirus Vaccination Status and Vaccination of Children Who Have Received Poliovirus Vaccine Outside the U.S.

Poliomyelitis, or polio, has been nearly wiped out--largely due to trivalent oral poliovirus vaccine (tOPV), which contains live attenuated types 1, 2, and 3. Type 2 was eradicated in 2015, pushing the World Health Organization closer to its 2018 goal. Avoiding type 2 reemergence through circulating vaccine-derived polioviruses (type 2 cVDPV), however, required a global shift last year from tOPV to bivalent OPV containing virus types 1 and 3 only. In light of the changeover, U.S. authorities point to guidelines for evaluating polio vaccination status and confirming vaccination in children immunized outside of the country. CDC's Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices (ACIP) stipulates that all babies and children should receive 4 doses of inactivated polio vaccine (IPV) containing all 3 types--which the United States has used exclusively since 2000--at ages 2 months, 4 months, 6-18 months, and 4-6 years old. To prevent type 2 cVDPV reemergence and/or importation of disease from foreign nations, and thus ensure that all children living in the United States remain protected from all three polio types, ACIP considers documentation of previous vaccination valid only if it proves receipt of either IPV or tOPV. Any minor lacking the proper paper work should be vaccinated, or revaccinated, with IPV according to official age-appropriate immunization schedules.

From "Guidance for Assessment of Poliovirus Vaccination Status and Vaccination of Children Who Have Received Poliovirus Vaccine Outside the U.S."  
*Morbidity and Mortality Weekly Report (01/13/17) Vol. 66, No. 1, P. 23 Marin, Mona; Patel, Manisha; Oberste, Steve; et al.*

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### CDC Lists Reasons to Get Vaccinated

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention is highlighting the many reasons to get vaccinated. The agency is reminding the public that adults needs vaccines too, and they should talk to their providers to make sure they are up to date on the necessary vaccines. Among the reasons to get vaccinated is that an individual could be at risk for serious diseases that could be prevented by vaccines. Furthermore, individuals with a chronic health condition or weakened immune system could be at increased risk for complications from certain diseases. Another reason to get vaccinated is to reduce the risk of transmitting a serious disease to loved ones. It is also important to help protect individuals who cannot be vaccinated, such as infants too young to be vaccinated against whooping cough.

From "CDC Lists Reasons to Get Vaccinated"  
*CDC Features (01/09/17)*

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### Update: Influenza Activity Around the U.S.

After holding at low levels in October, influenza activity began creeping higher in November, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) reports. Based on testing at public health and clinical laboratories nationwide, confirmed cases ramped up during Oct. 2–Dec. 17, 2016. The timing of the shift is ahead of year-earlier trends, with increases in influenza activity not surfacing during the 2015-2016 season until January. Most of the positive cases so far this season have been categorized as Influenza A (H3N2) viruses, which could point to a more severe season ahead--especially for the very young and for older adults. While no related pediatric deaths have been documented in the 2016-2017 cycle as of Dec. 17, 676 people have been hospitalized because of influenza since Oct. 2, with patients aged 65 years and older leading the way. Roughly 60 percent of Americans had not received influenza vaccination for the current season as of early November, although experts stress that this is the best way to avoid the virus and any complications that might arise from it. According to the data collected by CDC, nearly all viruses characterized this season have been similar to the components of the 2016-2017 Northern Hemisphere trivalent and quadrivalent vaccine formulations.

From "Update: Influenza Activity Around the U.S."  
*Morbidity and Mortality Weekly Report (12/30/16) Vol. 65, No. 5051, P. 1439*  
 Shang, Mei; Blanton, Lenee; Kniss, Krista; et al.

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### Other Immunization News

#### NCI-Designated Cancer Centers Endorse Updated HPV Vaccination Recommendations

The 69 National Cancer Institute-designated cancer centers have issued a joint statement backing recently revised human papillomavirus (HPV) recommendations from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC). The guidelines recommend that children aged 11-12 years receive 2 doses of the HPV vaccine at least six months apart, while adolescents and young adults older than age 15 years should continue to complete the 3-dose series. According to research, barriers to overcome to improve vaccination rates include a lack of strong recommendations from providers and parents not understanding that the vaccine protects against several types of cancer. To help counter these obstacles, the NCI-designated cancer centers have organized a continuing series of national summits to share new research, discuss best practices, and identify collective action toward boosting vaccination rates.

From "NCI-Designated Cancer Centers Endorse Updated HPV Vaccination Recommendations"  
*Infection Control Today (01/12/17)*

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#### Robert Kennedy Jr. Says Trump Asked Him to Lead Commission on 'Vaccine Safety'

Robert Kennedy Jr., a proponent of a widely discredited theory that vaccines cause autism, said on Jan. 10 that President-elect Donald Trump asked him to chair a new commission on "vaccine safety." Hours later, however, a spokeswoman for Trump's transition said that while Trump would like to create a commission on autism, no final decision had been made. Speaking to reporters earlier that day, Kennedy said that Trump called him to request the meeting and that he accepted the offer of a position on the commission during the meeting. The announcement was met with alarm from health professionals who say that putting a proponent of a conspiracy theory in a position of authority on the issue is dangerous. "That's very frightening; it's difficult to imagine anyone less qualified to serve on a commission for vaccine science," said Peter Hotez, dean of the National School of Tropical Medicine at Baylor College of Medicine and president of the Sabin Vaccine Institute. Kennedy has been a proponent of nonmedical exemptions for parents who seek to prevent

their children from being vaccinated, which is mandatory in most states. He has argued that mercury-based additives in vaccines explain the link to autism, and has alleged that government scientists, journalists, and pharmaceutical companies have colluded to hide the truth from the public.

From "Robert Kennedy Jr. Says Trump Asked Him to Lead Commission on 'Vaccine Safety'"

*Washington Post (01/11/17) Philip, Abby; Sun, Lena; Bernstein, Lenny*

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### Developing Better Pneumococcal Vaccines for Adults

Pneumococcal disease is blamed for more than 16,000 adult deaths in the United States each year, but experts say existing vaccines do little to alleviate what has become a \$1 billion-a-year public health burden. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention guidelines recommend a dose of pneumococcal protein-polysaccharide conjugate vaccine (PCV13) followed by a dose of pneumococcal polysaccharide vaccine (PPV23) for older adults as well as adults of any age who are immunocompromised. The vaccines have only limited effectiveness in adults, however, considering that PCV13 offers minimal protection against the non-bacteremic pneumococcal pneumonia that tends to afflict adults and PPV23 offers none. Yale University's Daniel M. Weinberger and Eugene D. Shapiro, along with Zitta B. Harboe of Denmark's Statens Serum Institut, urge the development of a new conjugate vaccine meant for exclusive use by older adults and immunocompromised adults. The formulation would differ from that currently used in vaccines that target the pediatric population, training specifically on serotypes that most commonly cause pneumococcal disease in older generations. The biggest obstacles, according to the authors, are selecting serotypes for the vaccine, getting regulatory and industry watchdogs on board, and demonstrating to manufacturers that they can expect to make a reasonable profit.

From "Developing Better Pneumococcal Vaccines for Adults"

*JAMA Internal Medicine (01/09/17) Weinberger, Daniel M.; Harboe, Zitta B.; Shapiro, Eugene D.*

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### Safety of Quadrivalent Meningococcal Conjugate Vaccine in 11- to 21-Year-Olds

Researchers at Kaiser Permanente Southern California assessed the safety of a quadrivalent meningococcal conjugate vaccine (MenACWY-CRM) in a population of young people aged 11–21 years. The team looked at electronic health records for nearly 49,000 patients vaccinated between September 30, 2011, and June 20, 2013. Investigators identified 26 prespecified events of interest (EOIs) that occurred in study participants during the year after receiving the vaccine. For 14 of those EOIs, no cases fell within predefined risk windows. There was, however, a significant association observed between MenACWY-CRM and Bell's Palsy--although the correlation was seen only when the meningococcal vaccine was administered concomitantly with other vaccines. Although the increased risk of Bell's Palsy could be attributed to underlying medical histories or chance occurrences, the researchers conclude that it warrants a deeper look.

From "Safety of Quadrivalent Meningococcal Conjugate Vaccine in 11- to 21-Year-Olds"

*Pediatrics (12/26/16) Tseng, Hung-Fu; Sy, Lina S.; Ackerson, Bradley K.; et al.*

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