



## **CDC Connection: For the Advisory Committee to the Director**

### **Issues and Alerts**

**Seasonal Flu Vaccinations Set Record in 2009–10**—More Americans were vaccinated against seasonal flu during the 2009–10 season (40% of eligible population) than during the previous flu season (33% of eligible population). The greatest gain was in children aged 6 months to 17 years. ([Apr 29 CDC Online Newsroom](#); [Apr 30 MMWR](#)) ■ **H1N1 (Swine)**

**Influenza Update**—[H1N1 Flu activity](#) is low nationwide; however small numbers of 2009 H1N1 viruses continue to be reported. Read [H1N1 Influenza: The Year in Review](#) for the milestones related to H1N1 from 2009 through 2010. ■ **High-Impact Strategies Needed to**

**Reduce Smoking**—CDC data from the [Tobacco Control State Highlights 2010](#) suggest smoking rates have remained constant for 5 years and that a combination of education and media campaigns, smoke-free air laws, and higher cigarette prices could reduce the percentage of adult smokers from its current 20% level. ([Apr 23 CDC Online Newsroom](#); [Apr 22 CNN](#)) ■

**President Signs Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act**—On March 23, President Obama signed the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act, enacting comprehensive health reform legislation, and ushering in an array of changes to our health system. ([HR3590 via Thomas Web Site](#)) ■ **US Cancer Costs Double**—The cost of treating cancer climbed from \$25 billion to more than \$48 billion over the last 18 years, according to a [CDC study published in the journal Cancer](#). ([May 10 Business Week](#); [May 10 US News and World Report](#)) ■

**Transportation Policies Can Affect Health**—CDC has identified transportation policies that can positively affect health and supports strategies that can provide a balanced portfolio of transportation choices that supports health and reduces health care costs. ([CDC Web Site](#)) ■

**Overall E. coli Illnesses Decline**—Preliminary CDC data showed the incidence of infections from E. coli O157:H7 declined in 2009 to its lowest level since 1994; however, infections from salmonella and other pathogens remained above the goals set by the government. ([Apr 15 Washington Post](#); [Apr 16 MMWR](#)) ■

**E. coli Outbreak Hits 3 States**—A team of CDC employees is working with local health departments to track an E. coli outbreak that has been linked to lettuce in Ohio, Michigan, and New York. ([May 15 CNN](#); [May 2 NBC 4 Columbus](#)) ■

**Senator Grassley Seeks Advisors' Conflict of Interest Disclosures**—In an April 22<sup>nd</sup> letter, Senator Charles Grassley requested information on how CDC ensured its scientific advisors federal advisory committees fully disclosed financial conflicts of interest. ([Apr 23 Reuters](#); [Apr 24 AP](#)) ■

**Almost Half of Americans Have Heart Health Risks**—Nearly half of all adult Americans have high cholesterol, high blood pressure or diabetes, all conditions that increase the risk of cardiovascular disease, ([Apr 26 LA Times](#); [Apr 26 NCHS Data Brief No. 36](#).)

### **Director's Highlights**

**CDC's Fills Additional Senior Leadership Positions**—Senior leadership positions recently announced at CDC include [Ursula Bauer](#), PhD, MPH, Director of the National Center



for Chronic Disease Prevention and Health Promotion; [Kevin M. DeCock](#), MD, FRCP (UK), DTM&H, Director of the Center for Global Health; [Harold W. Jaffe](#), MD, MA, Associate Director for Science; [Carmen Villar](#), MSW, Chief of Staff . ■ **Diane Caves Honored, Remembered**—CDC employee Diane Caves died in Haiti during the January 12 earthquake in Haiti. She was honored in a memorial service hosted by Dr. Frieden on March 1. Surgeon General Dr. Regina Benjamin spoke, delivering to Caves' family the personal condolence of President Barack Obama. ([Mar 1 CBSAtlanta.com](#); [Feb 13 Atlanta Journal Constitution](#) and [Photo Gallery](#); and numerous other sources) ■ **CDC Director Frieden Makes Changes at CDC**—Dr. Frieden explains the sense of urgency motivating him as CDC's director and his reasons for making organizational changes. ([Mar 15 New York Times](#))

## Advisory Committee to the Director Updates

The Advisory Committee to the Director welcomed five new members at its April 2010 meeting: **Dileep Bal**, MD, MS, MPH, District Health Officer, Island of Kauai, Hawaii; **Tom Farley**, MD, MPH, New York City Health Commissioner; **David Fleming, MD, MD** Director and Health Officer for Public Health–Seattle–King County, WA; **Alan Greenberg**, MD, MPH, Professor and Chair of the Department of Epidemiology and Biostatistics at George Washington University School of Public Health and Health Services; **Kelly Henning**, Director, International Health Programs, Bloomberg Foundation, New York, NY; **Sara Rosenbaum**, JD, Chair of the Department of Health Policy and Harold and Jane Hirsh Professor of Health Law and Policy, George Washington University. ■ The next Advisory Committee to the Director meeting is scheduled for October 28, 2010, at CDC in Atlanta.

## Our Members

**Eduardo Sanchez** is quoted in an article about the lack of healthy foods in poor neighborhoods in an article about legislative and policy approaches to improving diet. ([Apr 8 Cleveland Plain Dealer](#)) ■ **Nisha Botchwey** recently was nominated and selected as one of 12 Rockefeller-Penn Fellows for 2010. ■ **Kenneth Mandl** is co-leading a project funded by a federal grant to develop an “iTunes App Store” for health. ([Apr 8 Mass High Tech](#)) ■ **Cass Wheeler** addressed American generosity after Haiti earthquake in a recent interview. ([Apr 13 USA Today](#))

### FYI: Resources

- [CDC Calendar of Events](http://www.cdc.gov/about/newsEvents/events.htm) (URL: <http://www.cdc.gov/about/newsEvents/events.htm>)
- [CDC.gov Widgets and Gadgets](http://www.cdc.gov/Widgets) (URL: <http://www.cdc.gov/Widgets>)
- [Body Mass Index](http://www.cdc.gov/healthyweight/assessing/bmi/) (URL: <http://www.cdc.gov/healthyweight/assessing/bmi/>)
- [Advisory Committee to the Director](http://www.cdc.gov/about/advisory/advCharter.htm) (URL: <http://www.cdc.gov/about/advisory/advCharter.htm>)
- [White House Agenda for Health Care](http://www.whitehouse.gov/agenda/healthcare) (URL: <http://www.whitehouse.gov/agenda/healthcare>)

