



Key Terms

Key term	Definition
Antiviral medications for influenza	Drugs used to treat or to prevent influenza infections, not necessarily to treat the symptoms of influenza (e.g., analgesics)
Adverse reaction to influenza vaccine	A reaction experienced by the HCW that is attributable to the influenza vaccine. The Vaccine Information Statement defines a reaction as “Any unusual condition, such as high fever or behavior changes.” Typically, adverse reactions to vaccines are only known when the HCW notifies you (i.e., passive surveillance) rather than you following up after the vaccination (i.e., active surveillance).
Bite	A human bite sustained by a HCW from a patient, other HCW, or visitor.
Bloodborne pathogens	Pathogenic microorganisms that may be present in human blood and can cause disease in humans. These pathogens include, but are not limited to hepatitis B virus (HBV), hepatitis C virus (HCV) and human immunodeficiency virus (HIV).
CDC Location	A CDC-defined designation given to a patient care area housing patients who have similar disease conditions or who are receiving care for similar medical or surgical specialties. Each facility location that is monitored is “mapped” to one CDC Location. The specific CDC Location code is determined by the type of patients cared for in that area according to the 80% Rule. That is, if 80% of patients are of a certain type (e.g., pediatric patients with orthopedic problems) then that area is designated as that type of location (in this case, an Inpatient Pediatric Orthopedic Ward). Work locations must be mapped to a CDC location. For CDC locations, see http://www.cdc.gov/nhsn/PDFs/pscManual/15LocationsDescriptions_current.pdf
CDC (occupation) Code	A CDC-defined designation for each occupation type in a facility. A facility occupation is “mapped” to one CDC Code. See Chapter 7 of protocol for list of occupations.
Contractor	Individual facilities may have differing classifications of work status. According to the Bureau of Labor Statistics, workers with no explicit or implicit contract for a long-term employment arrangement, such as temporary or term positions, are considered contingent or contract workers. Facilities should use their own definition of a contractor.
Device	Any of the following devices (hollow-bore needle, suture needle, glass, plastic, other solid sharps, and non-sharp safety devices) used at the healthcare facility.
Direct patient care	Hands on, face-to-face contact with patients for the purpose of diagnosis, treatment and monitoring.
Float	A work location for HCP who do not work at least 75% of the time in a single location. For example, a radiology technician who spends most of his/her time performing portable x-rays throughout the facility.



Key term	Definition
Full Time Equivalent (FTE)	HCP whose regularly scheduled workweek is 35 hours or more. To calculate the number of FTE's add the number of FTEs to ½ the number of part-time HCP (e.g., 2 part-time HCWs = 1 FTE).
Healthcare personnel (HCP)	A population of healthcare workers working in a healthcare setting. HCP might include (but are not limited to) physicians, nurses, nursing assistants, therapists, technicians, emergency medical service personnel, dental personnel, pharmacists, laboratory personnel, autopsy personnel, students and trainees, contractual staff not employed by the healthcare facility, and persons (e.g., clerical, dietary, housekeeping, maintenance, and volunteers) not directly involved in patient care but potentially exposed to infectious agents that can be transmitted to and from HCP. It includes students, trainees, and volunteers.
Healthcare worker (HCW)	A person who works in the facility, whether paid or unpaid, who has the potential for exposure to infectious materials, including body substances, contaminated medical supplies and equipment, contaminated environmental surfaces, or contaminated air. Healthcare worker is the singular form of healthcare personnel.
Hollow-bore needle	Needle (e.g., hypodermic needle, phlebotomy needle) with a lumen through which material (e.g., medication, blood) can flow.
Location	The patient care area to which an HCW is assigned while working in the healthcare facility. See also CDC Location for how locations are defined. CDC location codes may be accessed: at http://www.cdc.gov/nhsn/PDFs/master-locations-descriptions.pdf
Mucous membrane exposure	Contact of mucous membrane (e.g., eyes, nose, or mouth) with the fluids, tissues, or specimens listed on the blood and body fluids exposure form.
Non-intact skin	Areas of the skin that have been opened by cuts, abrasions, dermatitis, chapped skin, etc.
Non-intact skin-exposure	Contact of non-intact skin with the fluids, tissues, or specimens listed under Occupational Exposure
Non-Responder to Hepatitis B vaccine	An HCW, who has received two series of hepatitis B vaccine, is serotested within 2 months after the last dose of vaccine and does not have anti-HBs ≥ 10 mIU/mL.
Non-seasonal influenza vaccine	A vaccine for additional/novel influenza virus strains (e.g., 2009 H1N1) not included in the seasonal influenza vaccine which may or may not be available on an annual basis.
Occupational exposure	Contact with blood, visibly bloody fluids, and other body fluids (i.e., semen, vaginal secretions, cerebrospinal fluid, synovial fluid, pleural fluid, peritoneal fluid, pericardial fluid, and amniotic fluid, tissues, and laboratory specimens that contain concentrated virus) to which Standard Precautions apply and during the performance of a healthcare worker's duties. Modes of exposure include percutaneous injuries, mucous membrane exposures, non-intact skin exposures, and bites.



Key term	Definition
Part Time Equivalent (PTE)	HCP whose regularly scheduled workweek is less than 35 hours. Two PTEs equal 1 FTE.
Percutaneous injury	An exposure event occurring when a needle or other sharp object penetrates the skin. For percutaneous injuries with a needle or sharp object that was not in contact with blood or other body fluids prior to exposure, collection of data is optional. Facilities are not required to collect data that involve intact skin or exposures to body fluids to which contact precautions do not apply unless they are visibly bloody. However, facilities that routinely collect data on such exposures may enter this information into the system.
Safety device	Includes any safety device (e.g., needless IV systems, blunted surgical needles, self-sheathing needles) used at the healthcare facility.
Seasonal influenza vaccine	A vaccine for seasonal influenza virus strains that is offered on an annual basis.
Severe adverse reaction to antiviral medication use for influenza chemoprophylaxis or treatment	Adverse reactions severe enough to affect daily activities and/or result in the discontinuation of the antiviral medication.
Sharp	Any object that can penetrate the skin including, but not limited to, needles, scalpels, broken glass, broken capillary tubes, and exposed ends of dental wires.
Sharps Injury	An exposure event occurring when any sharp object penetrates the skin
Solid Sharp	A sharp object (e.g., suture needle, scalpel) that does not have a lumen through which material can flow.
Vaccination season	A 12-month period starting from July 1 of a year to June 30 of the following year.
Work location	A HCW's current permanent work location. This refers to physical work location rather than to department assignment.