NIOSSH Research on Implementation of Influenza Preventive Measures in Workplaces

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Board of Scientific Counselors (BSC) meeting
March 21, 2013
HHE: 2009 PANDEMIC INFLUENZA AND PREVENTIVE MEASURES AMONG PHYSICIANS IN TRAINING
2009 Pandemic Influenza in Physicians in Training

- ~110,000 physicians in training in U.S.
- Health hazard evaluation (HHE) request from residency program director in Utah
- Several residents with influenza-like illness (ILI) in June 2009
- Objectives:
  - To estimate prevalence of pH1N1 infection and ILI
  - To identify modes of transmission
  - To assess knowledge, attitudes, and practices regarding influenza infection control measures

2009 Pandemic Influenza in Physicians in Training

- Cross-sectional study design
- Electronic surveys sent to current, recently graduated internal medicine residents, fellows in 4 hospitals
- 88 (42%) physicians completed electronic survey
- Reported contact with ill (pH1N1 or ILI) persons:
  - Ill patient (65%)
  - Ill coworker at work (52%)
  - Ill coworker outside of work (32%)
2009 Pandemic Influenza in Physicians in Training

- 13 physicians reported ILI
- 5 confirmed to have influenza

Influenza preventive measures

- High seasonal influenza vaccination rate (90%)
- Hand hygiene compliance (77% before, 81% after patient encounter)
- 10 reported working despite being ill (1–4 days)
  - Professional obligation to patients, co-workers
2009 Pandemic Influenza in Physicians in Training

- Knowledge of minimum PPE recommendations for flu at 4 hospitals (13%–88%)
- PPE adherence (36% high, 63% low adherence)
- Most common reasons for not using recommended PPE:
  - I did not know the patient had pH1N1 or ILI (58%)
  - The recommended PPE was not near my patients’ rooms (30%)
HHE: INFLUENZA VACCINATION IN CHILD CARE WORKERS
Influenza Vaccination in Child Care Workers

- > 1.3 million employed in child day care settings
- Technical assistance request from local county family services agency in 2010
- Objectives:
  - Determine pH1N1, seasonal influenza vaccination rates among child care center employees
  - Assess knowledge, attitudes regarding vaccine

Influenza Vaccination in Child Care Workers

- Cross sectional study design

- Study population: All part-time and full-time employees working at randomly selected licensed child care centers

- Administered in person paper surveys on-site January 30–March 1, 2010
Influenza Vaccination in Child Care Workers

- 384 (95%) of 403 employees at 32 child care centers completed survey
- Only 45 (12%) received pH1N1 vaccine
- 3 most common reasons for not getting the vaccine
  - I don’t think I need the vaccine (25%)
  - I don’t think the vaccine will keep me from getting the flu (16%)
  - The vaccine is not safe (16%)
Materials developed to encourage vaccination
SURVEILLANCE STUDY: INFLUENZA VACCINATION AMONG NURSING ASSISTANTS
Nursing Assistants

- ~ 600,000 nursing assistants (NA) in U.S. long term care facilities (LTCF)
- Primary caregivers for LTCF residents
  - Provide 90% of hands-on care
  - Assist residents with activities of daily living, direct care
Influenza Vaccination in Nursing Assistants

- Surveillance study using data from the National Center for Health Statistics (NCHS)
- Objectives
  - Estimate influenza vaccination rate among NAs in LTCFs
  - Identify demographic and occupational predictors of vaccination status

Influenza Vaccination in Nursing Assistants

- Analyzed cross-sectional data from 2004 National Nursing Assistant Survey (n = 2,873)
- Influenza vaccination coverage: 37%
- Similar to nationally reported HCP estimates
Influenza Vaccination in Nursing Assistants

- Characteristics associated with not getting vaccine:
  - Non-hispanic blacks
  - Not feeling respected/rewarded for work
  - Work at for-profit facility
  - Receiving fewer than 7 of 15 nonwage job benefits
Recommendations

- Education and training to employees about
  - Risk of influenza
  - Efficacy and safety of vaccine
  - Other preventive measures
- Reduce attitudinal barriers to vaccination
- Make vaccination convenient and available
- Establish workplace policies that encourage employees with influenza to stay home
Current Work/Considerations

- Ongoing HHE looking at influenza vaccination among employees in local school district
- Collaborating with CDC’s Immunization Services Division on national flu vaccine in HCP survey
- Other occupational groups at higher risk
  - Other health care personnel (home health)
  - Public administration workers
  - Transportation workers
  - Poultry and swine workers
Acknowledgements

- NIOSH Project officers
  - Sherry Baron
  - Scott Brueck
  - Stefanie Evans
  - Matthew Groenewold
  - SangWoo Tak
  - Douglas Wiegand

- NIOSH Management
  - Elena Page
  - Bruce Bernard
  - Allison Tepper
  - David Weissman

- CDC Collaborators
  - Norma Allred
  - James Singleton

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Questions

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