

**Healthcare-Associated Infection Prevention
Hospital Edition Newsletter
September 2015**

Department of Health Updates

Influenza 2015-16 Season

The Pennsylvania Department of Health monitors influenza activity throughout the year but ramps up surveillance activities in the fall and winter. The official influenza surveillance season starts with the 40th week of the year (typically around the beginning of October) and ends on the 20th week of the following year (in May).

Information about the 2014/2015 influenza season is available on the [department's website](#). The 2015/16 surveillance season will begin shortly. The Department of Health will be posting flu updates on the [department website](#).

CDC MMWR

The [CDC's Morbidity and Mortality Weekly Report \(MMWR\)](#), published August 7, 2015, lists the recommendations of the Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices (ACIP) for the 2015-16 influenza season. The update includes information about the influenza vaccine products expected to be available, antigen composition of the seasonal influenza vaccines, an updated algorithm for determining the appropriate number of doses for children aged 6 months through 8 years, and recommendations for the use of live attenuated influenza vaccine (LAIV) and inactivated influenza vaccine (IIV) for the 2015-16 season.

Department of Health Social Media

The Pennsylvania Department of Health is now on social media. These sites will be used to provide healthy living information, news stories, emergency preparedness tips, upcoming events and clinics, videos, and photos distributed by the department.

[Pennsylvania Department of Health](#) on Facebook
[@PAHealthDept](#) on Twitter

Healthcare-Associated Infection Prevention Hospital Edition Newsletter September 2015

NHSN Information

Healthcare Personnel Safety Component

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) provides resources such as training, protocols, data collection forms, supporting materials, and frequently asked questions for health care facilities reporting health care personnel influenza vaccination to the National Healthcare Safety Network (NHSN). This information is available by facility type and can be accessed on the [NHSN website](#).

A guide for “[Methods and Strategies Used to Collect Healthcare Personnel Influenza Vaccination Data](#)” as well as detailed instructions on “[How to View Create and Modify Dates within NHSN](#)” are also available.

NHSN Manuals and Resources



The NHSN [Patient Safety Component Manual](#) and [Healthcare Personnel Safety Component Manual](#) can be accessed and/or printed in its entirety. These NHSN manuals may also be accessed on the right side of the [NHSN home page](#).

In addition, various [analysis resources](#) such as guides, training, and statistical tools that allow NHSN users to analyze their surveillance data are also provided on the NHSN website.



NHSN Contact Information

For NHSN help, please send an email to: nhsn@cdc.gov.

Include the facility five-digit NHSN assigned ID number with your question in the email subject.

CDC’s NHSN website: www.cdc.gov/nhsn

Healthcare-Associated Infection Prevention Hospital Edition Newsletter September 2015

NHSN Information

CDC Ebola PPE Guidance Clarifications

The CDC has clarified its [guidance regarding personal protective equipment \(PPE\) for healthcare personnel caring for suspected and confirmed Ebola patients in U.S. healthcare facilities](#).

Based on feedback from health care facilities that have implemented the current guidance (originally posted October 2014), the guidance clarifies the use of fluid-resistant and impermeable gowns and coveralls. Specifications are provided in the guidance to assist facilities in selecting and ordering the recommended garments.

In addition to clarifying the specifications of gowns and coveralls recommended, the PPE guidance for confirmed Ebola patients is being updated with additional explanation, including:

- Expanding the rationale why respiratory protection is recommended when caring for an Ebola patient;
- Clarifying that the trained observer should not serve as an assistant for taking off (doffing) PPE;
- Suggesting that a designated doffing assistant or “buddy” might be helpful, especially in doffing with the Powered Air Purifying Respirator (PAPR) option;
- Modifying the PAPR doffing procedure to make the steps more clear;
- Changing the order of boot cover removal - boot covers are now removed after the gown or coverall; and
- Emphasizing the importance of frequent cleaning of the floor in the doffing area.

Furthermore, the CDC has provided [PPE guidance for clinically stable persons under investigation for Ebola](#) and [frequently asked questions](#) for “Guidance on Personal Protective Equipment to Be Used by Healthcare Workers During Management of Patients with Confirmed Ebola or Persons Under Investigation (PUI) for Ebola Who are Clinically Unstable or have Bleeding, Vomiting or Diarrhea in U.S. Hospitals, Including Procedures for Donning and Doffing.”

Healthcare-Associated Infection Prevention Hospital Edition Newsletter September 2015

Resources and Information

CDC INFO on demand

The One & Only Campaign recently created a new educational flyer entitled “[Injection Safety Reminders for Oncology Providers](#).”

Additional resources and information are provided on the [CDC's INFO on demand publications website](#). These materials are available for downloading and/or ordering.

Publications include:

- About the One & Only Campaign;
- Dangerous Misperceptions (Injection Safety Myths & Truths);
- Injection Safety Checklist;
- Injection Safety Guidelines Pocket Card;
- Injection Safety Healthcare Provider Brochure;
- Injection Safety Infographic;
- Injection Safety Patient Brochure;
- Injection Safety Reminders for Oncology Providers;
- Insulin Pen Safety; and
- Insulin Pen Safety Poster.

New FDA Communication: Duodenoscope Reprocessing for CRE

On August 4, 2015, the FDA provided a [Safety Communication](#) that includes a detailed list of supplemental duodenoscope reprocessing measures.

Emergency Care Research Institute (ECRI) provides high priority safety alerts and recommendations for best practices in scope reprocessing. The ECRI Institute [CRE and Duodenoscope Resource Center](#) offers updates and guidance on this critical issue.

Two recent health devices alerts are provided below.

- [Health Devices Alert H0245 03: ECRI Perspectives on FDA's Supplemental Measures](#)
- [Health Devices Alert H0245 02: ECRI Institute Recommends Culturing Duodenoscopes as Key Step to Reducing CRE Infections](#)