

FluSafe

Vaccinating staff, protecting patients

BACKGROUND

- Reducing influenza transmission in health care settings is a top priority and a critical patient safety issue.
- Influenza vaccination of health care workers is the single most effective method for preventing influenza infection and its severe complications in health care settings.
- National rates of influenza vaccination of health care workers are about 53 percent. Minnesota rates appear to be approximately 70 percent, as measured by the Minnesota Department of Health (MDH) in 2009.
- Advised by a statewide task force of leaders from many professional organizations, MDH developed the FluSafe program to recognize health care facilities that attain high influenza vaccination rates.

GOAL

To help Minnesota achieve a health care worker influenza vaccination coverage goal of 100 percent of those who do not have medical contraindications.

SETTING

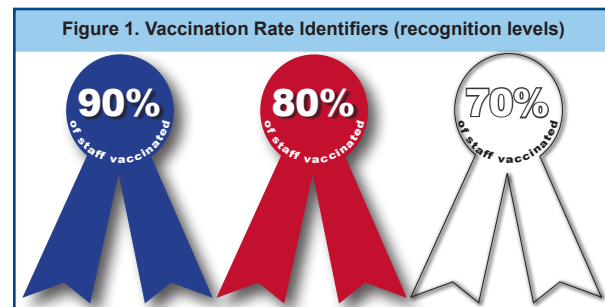
Only Minnesota hospitals and nursing homes for the first year of program (2010-11).

POPULATION

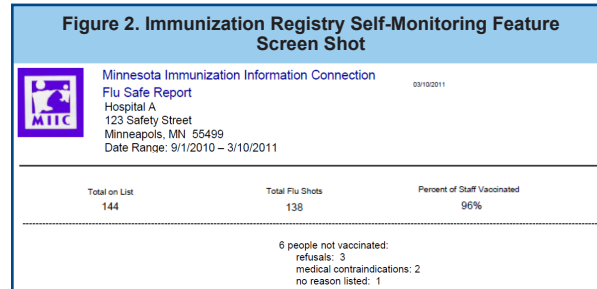
FluSafe defines health care workers as all paid personnel in a health care setting including licensed independent contractors.

PROJECT DESCRIPTION

- FluSafe was launched in September 2010 and 185 Minnesota health care facilities registered for the program's first year.
- FluSafe offers health care settings an opportunity to demonstrate their commitment to patient safety and be publicly recognized for achieving high influenza vaccination rates.
- Facilities will be recognized for achieving employee influenza vaccination rates of 70, 80, or 90 percent (Figure 1).



- Facilities will be acknowledged in a statewide news release and will receive a certificate and poster.
- The program offers online evidence-based tools and materials to enhance existing vaccination campaigns.
- Worker vaccinations are tracked in Minnesota's statewide immunization registry to allow for consistent comparisons of formally documented rates – something not possible with programs that rely on self-report data.
- A self-monitoring feature is also available so that sites can track their progress (Figure 2).



PRELIMINARY RESULTS

In year one (2010-11) of the FluSafe program 76 hospitals and 106 nursing homes participated (Figure 3, 4, 5 and 6).

Ten health care facilities have currently finalized their employee vaccination reporting for the 2010-11 FluSafe program (Figure 7). Eight of the 10 facilities have vaccination rates at the level that will be recognized by the FluSafe program in 2011.

SUCCESSSES

- Increased influenza vaccination reporting in Minnesota's immunization registry.
- Increased number of nursing homes using Minnesota's immunization registry.
- Increased awareness by health care facilities of the importance of tracking their employee influenza vaccinations.
- Strong partner support from the Minnesota Alliance for Patient Safety and the Minnesota Hospital Association.
- Supports Minnesota e-Health standards.
- Public reporting of worker vaccination rates at health care facilities serves as both a quality measure and a matter of transparency to inform Minnesota communities and patients.

CHALLENGES/LESSONS LEARNED

- Integrating use of Minnesota's immunization registry for tracking vaccinations was a difficult leap for some facilities.
- We underestimated the learning curve for registered facilities in the first year of the program.
- Insufficient pilot testing of registry tracking functions.
- The program was time-intensive on the part of all parties involved during year one.

NEXT STEPS

- Recognizing FluSafe facilities across Minnesota in late summer or early fall 2011.
- User-friendly improvements to make registry integration simpler.
- 2012 program goal is to have all Minnesota hospitals participating in FluSafe.

Figure 3. Hospital Participation Level in Year One (2010-11)

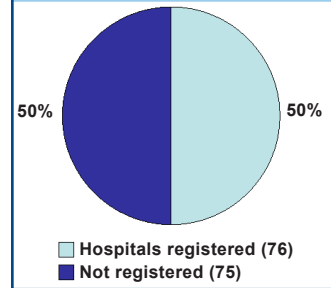


Figure 4. Nursing Home Participation Level in Year One (2010-11)

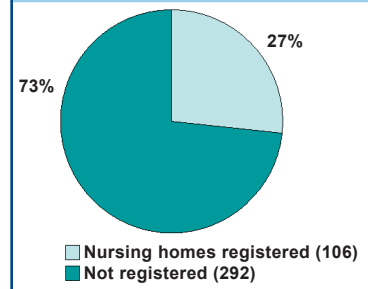


Figure 5. Facilities Participating in Year One (2010-11)

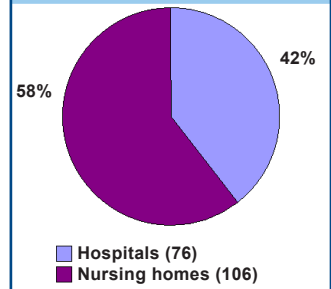


Figure 6. Location of Participants

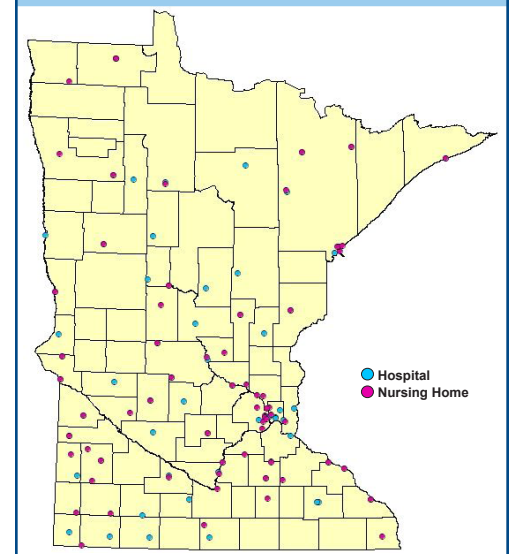


Figure 7. Analysis of Facilities with Complete Data as of March 18, 2011

Type of facility	# of employees	# of employees vaccinated	# of employees refusing vaccination	# of medical contraindications	# not vaccinated – no reason given	Employee vaccination rate	Recognition level
Hospital	56	51	4	0	1	91%	blue
Hospital	98	88	1	0	9	89%	red
Hospital	110	93	6	0	11	85%	red
Hospital	131	110	18	1	2	84%	red
Nursing home	116	91	17	0	8	78%	white
Hospital	116	87	20	0	9	75%	white
Nursing home	75	54	0	0	21	72%	white
Nursing home	159	114	46	0	0	72%	white
Nursing home	83	53	17	0	13	64%	none
Nursing home	90	52	0	0	38	58%	none