



Protecting Families Against Influenza: A Pilot Project

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Background	Project Description	Lessons Learned
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- ◆ Influenza vaccine is recommended for all individuals ≥ 6 months of age
- ◆ Immunization of household contacts is one way to protect infants too young to be immunized
- ◆ During the 2009-10 season, immunization rates in every age group below national targets

- ◆ **Free** vaccine offered 10/15 -11/30/10
 - ◆ Vaccination stations or “flu shops”
 - ◆ Roaming carts
 - ◆ Unit-based nurse vaccinators
- ◆ Families educated about the need for influenza vaccine at admission
 - ◆ Vouchers provided
- ◆ Program expanded to include employee family members
- ◆ Program funded by hospital



- ◆ Hospital admission is an opportunity to immunize patients and their family members
- ◆ Caregivers are motivated to be immunized in order to protect their children
- ◆ Adult caregivers appreciate the convenience of a hospital-based immunization program
- ◆ Unit-based immunization preferred to vaccination stations
- ◆ Expansion of the program to family members of outpatients would be worthwhile
- ◆ A children’s hospital can be a leader in a coordinated, community-wide influenza immunization campaign

Setting



- ◆ 263-bed tertiary care children’s hospital in Louisville, KY
- ◆ Comprehensive influenza immunization program
 - ◆ Required declination for employees
 - ◆ Inpatients routinely immunized
 - ◆ Nursing time donated for county-wide school-based immunization project

Results

- ◆ 644 patient household contacts immunized
 - ◆ 581 adults
 - ◆ 63 children (7 months to 17 years)
 - ◆ 21% ≤ 5 years of age
 - ◆ 1 to 5 household contacts per patient
 - ◆ 22% (109/501) of vaccinees were contacts of infants < 6 months of age
- ◆ 78 employee household contacts immunized

