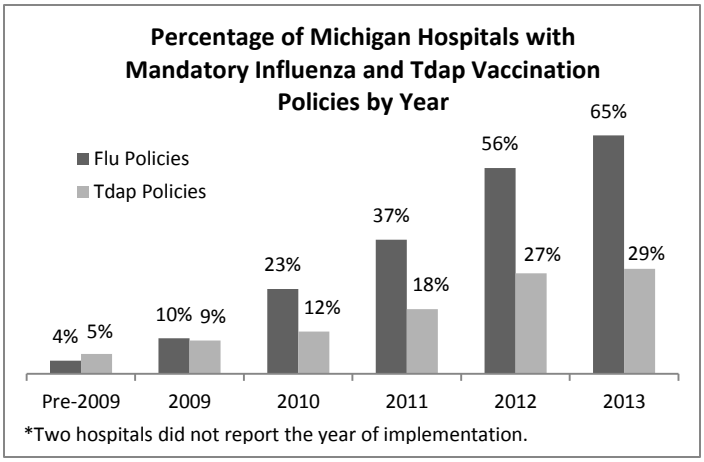
MDCH Hospital Vaccination Policy Survey Summary

Fall 2013

Background: The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) and the Michigan Department of Community Health (MDCH) recommend that health care personnel (HCP) receive vaccinations because of their risk for exposure to and potential to transmit vaccine-preventable diseases. Hospitalized patients with hospital-onset influenza have a greater length of stay and are more likely to be admitted to intensive care or die compared to patients with community-onset influenza. The CDC has recommended that all HCP receive an annual seasonal influenza vaccination since 1984, and a single dose of tetanus toxoid, reduced diphtheria toxoid and acellular pertussis (Tdap) vaccine since 2005. Studies demonstrate that mandatory vaccination policies in hospitals can improve coverage rates; however, policies vary throughout the state.

Survey Purpose: A 2011 MDCH survey found that 41% of the hospitals in Michigan (n=177) had a mandatory HCP influenza vaccination policy and 11% had a mandatory Tdap vaccination policy. In the fall of 2013 we re-surveyed Michigan's hospitals (n=164) to determine how many have implemented mandatory HCP influenza and Tdap vaccination policies since the 2011 survey.



Key Findings

- All 164 hospitals completed the survey.
  - Respondents: Employee Health Nurses, Infection Preventionists and Directors of Quality Management
- 45 mandatory flu policies and 18 Tdap policies were implemented since 2011.

Influenza HCP Vaccination Policies

- 107 (**65%**) of hospitals reported a mandatory influenza vaccination policy for all HCP
  - 52 (49%) of mandatory policies allowed unvaccinated HCP to wear a mask in lieu of vaccination during the flu season.
- **94%** HCP influenza vaccination coverage was reported in hospitals with mandatory influenza policies during the 2012-13 influenza season compared to **65%** coverage in hospitals without mandatory policies.
- The most frequently reported reasons hospitals do not have a mandatory policy are: lack of administration support (29%), discussing/plan to next year (20%) and high vaccination rate without mandatory policy (9%).

Tdap HCP Vaccination Policies

- 48 **(29%)** of hospitals reported a mandatory Tdap vaccination policy for all or "some" HCP.
  - "Some" HCP included: HCP with direct patient care, HCP in ED and high risk areas, and new hires.
- A majority (80%) of the hospitals were unsure of their Tdap vaccination coverage for HCP.
- The most frequently reported reasons hospitals do not have a mandatory policy are: lack of administration support (22%), discussing/plan to next year (14%), Tdap is highly recommended (14%) and many are unsure (14%).

Resources and Additional Information

- Michigan Health and Hospital Association's HCP Vaccination Policies Resource Page
  - MDCH and MHA letter to hospital leaders on the importance of vaccination policies.
- MDCH's influenza vaccination materials: www.michigan.gov/flu
- Immunization Action Coalition's HCP Resources
- The Michigan Care Improvement Registry can be used to track the vaccines you administer.

Michigan Department Of Community Health
MDCH