



2017-2018 Seasonal Influenza Talking Points

- CDC released a Health Advisory via the [Health Alert Network](#) 27 DEC 2017 regarding an increase in influenza A (H3N2), antiviral recommendations, and background info.
 - Increase in cases compared to this time last year (perhaps an earlier peak)
 - Last year's vaccine efficacy to H3N2 was approximately 32%
 - It is too early in the season to know this year's vaccine efficacy
 - [Clinicians should be reminded](#) to keep influenza high on their differential diagnosis
 - Treat all hospitalized and high risk patients early
- Antiviral treatment is an important tool in the clinician's treatment arsenal
 - [High risk patients](#) and hospitalized patients should be treated with antivirals
 - Ideally treatment should begin within 48h of symptoms but some patients may benefit from treatment even if it is past 48h
 - Because it is important to initiate treatment early- clinical decisions about starting antivirals should not wait for lab confirmation
- [NMCPHC Influenza results](#) so far (week 52)
 - Influenza is elevated earlier in the season and increasing compared to previous years
 - Severity indicators are elevated
 - San Diego & Camp Pendleton on the West Coast currently have the highest rates
 - 22 Lab positives in inpatients
 - Navy is 89.7% vaccinated and USMC are currently 92.1% vaccinated
 - Influenza-like illness (ILI) outpatient visits are elevated
 - Numbers of Antivirals dispensed are elevated
 - Majority of lab positives are H3N2
- General [guidance](#) and [policy](#)
 - Get your flu shot
 - Don't come to work sick
 - Cover your cough
- MTFs consider dusting off those flu plans, check your stocks of rapid flu tests, vaccines, and Tamiflu.
 - Review infection control policies, programs and procedures
 - Review supplies needed for clinical care of those with severe respiratory illness
- Preventive Medicine departments remain vigilant in surveillance ensure daily monitoring of [ESSENCE](#) for ILI (as per [BUMEDINST 6220.12C](#)) and AHLTA for severe inpatient cases
 - Consider reaching out to the local civilian health department for updates
- Public Health Emergency Officers (PHEOs) consider examining your PI plans
- Occupational Medicine consider regulations and local guidance for HCW for flu vaccine coverage and ensure adherence to sick leave policies
- Engage your PAO for posters and social media
- Click here for [additional information](#)

