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