



Influenza in Skilled Nursing Facilities

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Learning Objectives

1. Provide facts about influenza and summarize the most recent season
2. Describe respiratory and influenza outbreak response in skilled nursing facilities (SNFs) and strategies on how to prevent and reduce transmission
3. Provide an overview of the influenza vaccination mandate



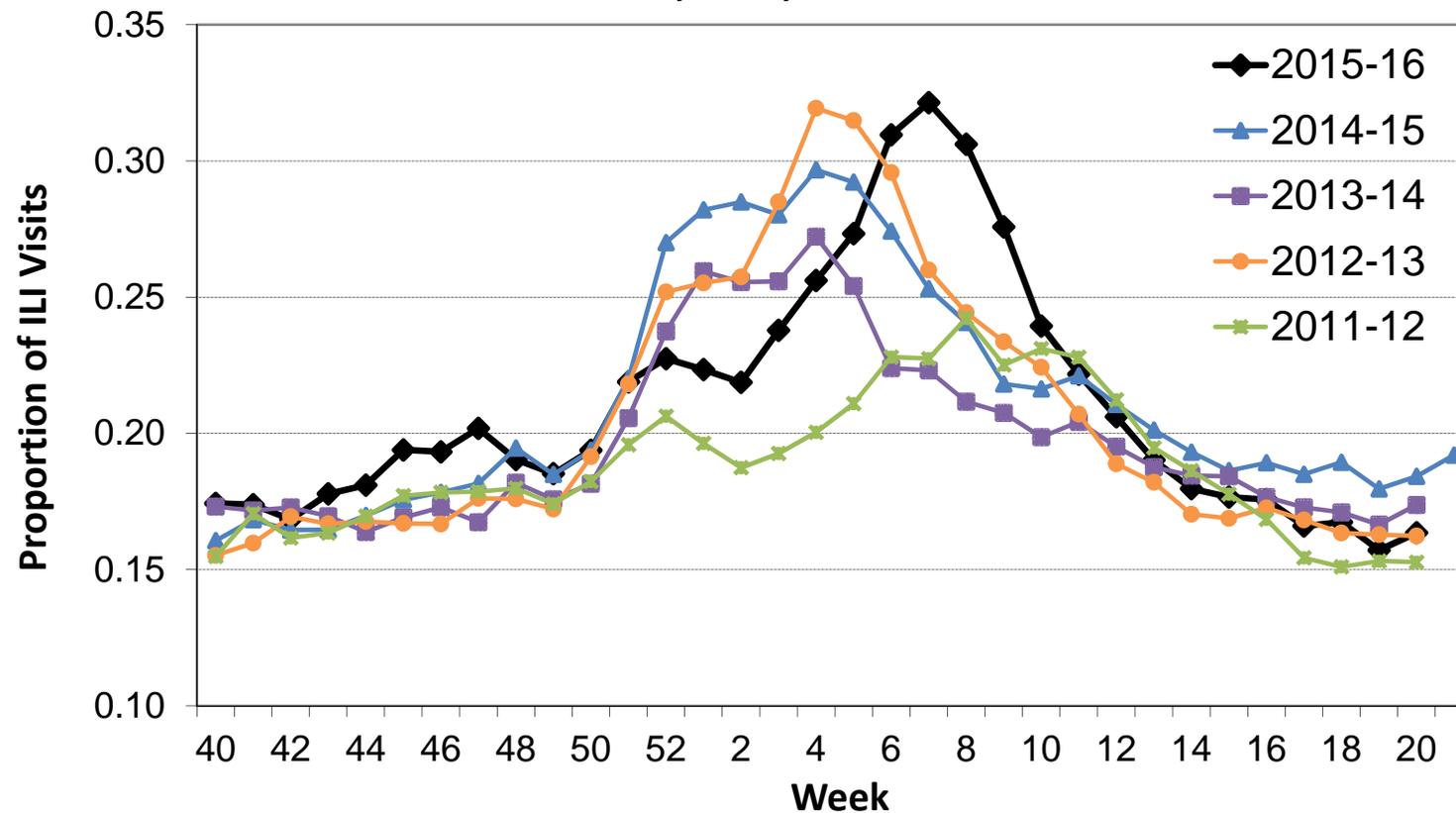
2015-16 Influenza Season Summary (1)

- ❖ Moderate activity in Los Angeles County
- ❖ Influenza A (H1N1) predominated, along with high levels of influenza B
- ❖ Total of 74 influenza-associated deaths
 - Majority in 18-64 year old age group, common for A (H1N1) seasons



2015-16 Influenza Season Summary (2)

Figure 1. Proportion of Respiratory Illness Emergency Department Visits by Week, LAC, 2011-2016





Influenza Facts

- Annually, influenza causes severe illness and deaths in the United States
 - ✓ 6th leading cause of death among US adults¹
 - ✓ Accounts for 23,000 deaths
 - ✓ More than 200,000 hospitalizations per year
- The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) estimates that each year on average 5-20% of the population will get the flu

1. <http://www.cdc.gov/flu/about/disease/index.htm>



The Flu in Skilled Nursing Facilities

Challenges:

- Elderly are at higher risk for complications
- Atypical flu symptoms
- Vaccination may be less effective in the patients age ≥ 65
- Less access to diagnostic tests



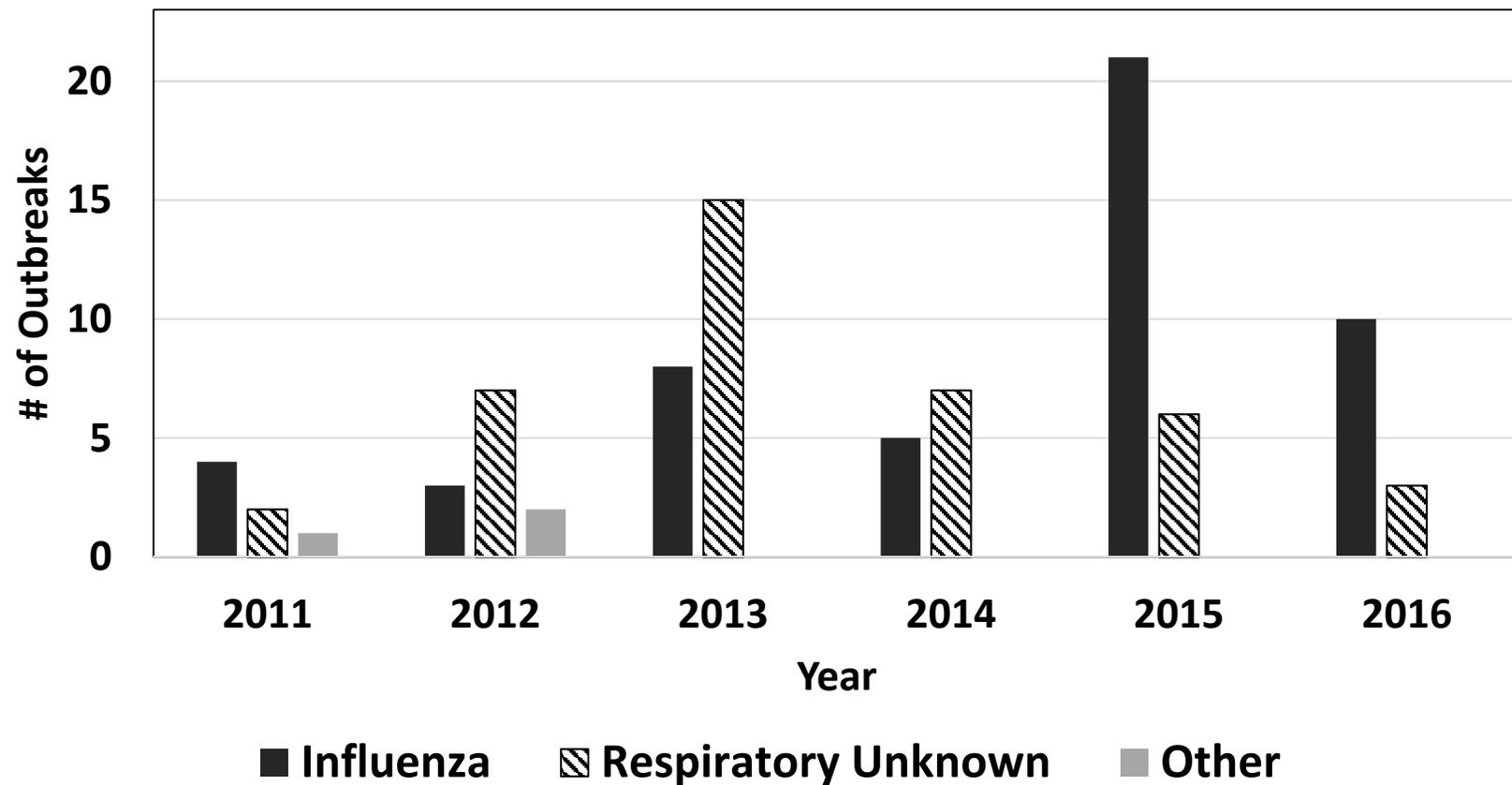
Definition of a Respiratory OB in the SNF setting

- A sudden increase of acute febrile respiratory illness cases over the normal background rate; OR
- **At least one case of laboratory confirmed influenza or other respiratory pathogen in the setting of a cluster (≥ 2 cases) of influenza-like-illness (ILI) within a 72-hour period**
- ILI is defined as fever ($\geq 100^{\circ}\text{F}$ or 37.8°C) plus cough and/or sore throat in the absence of a known cause other than influenza

<http://www.cdc.gov/flu/professionals/infectioncontrol/ltc-facility-guidance.htm>



Respiratory Outbreaks in Skilled Nursing Facilities, Los Angeles County, 2011-2016





Outbreak Investigation by Community Health Services (CHS) Public Health Center

Report received to DPH
(usually Morbidity Unit)

Assigned to CHS Public Health Center
(based on the reporting facility's census
tract)

A case is assigned to a Public Health Nurse
(case manager) for investigation,
surveillance, and follow-up



Treatment

- Supportive care and antiviral medication may reduce duration of symptoms, severity, and contagiousness
- **All residents** who have confirmed or suspected influenza should receive antiviral treatment immediately; treatment should **NOT** be delayed while waiting for laboratory confirmation.
- Treatment works best when started within the first 2 days of symptoms but may still be effective when given more than 48 hours after onset of symptoms.



Antiviral Chemoprophylaxis

- Chemoprophylaxis can be considered for all staff regardless of vaccination status if the outbreak is caused by a strain of influenza virus that is not well matched with that season's influenza vaccine.
- **In an outbreak setting**, CDC recommends antiviral chemoprophylaxis for a minimum of 2 weeks, and continuing for at least 7 days after the last known case was identified.

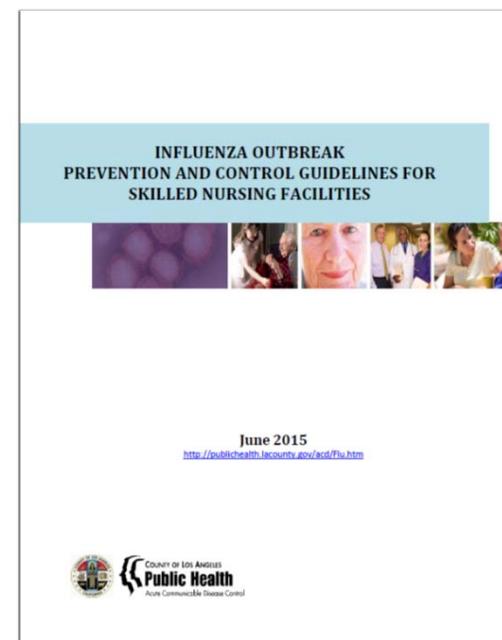


Influenza Outbreak Prevention And Control Guidelines For SNFs

- How-to guide for influenza outbreak prevention and control in skilled nursing facilities

<http://publichealth.lacounty.gov/acd/SNFToolKit.htm>

- The guidelines provide
 - general information about influenza
 - a prevention toolkit for SNFs
 - an outbreak management checklist
 - line lists for residents and staff
 - a notification alert template
 - health educational materials





Mandatory Flu Vaccination for HCP in LAC

- On Oct 2, 2013, LAC Health Officer County issued the following health order:

“Pursuant to my authority under §120175 of the California Health and Safety Code, I hereby order every licensed acute care hospital, skilled nursing facility, and intermediate care facility within the County of Los Angeles public health jurisdiction to implement a program under which **healthcare personnel at such facility receive an annual influenza vaccination for the current season or wear a mask** for the duration of the influenza season while in contact with patients or working in patient-care areas.”

- Applies to all persons, including paid and unpaid employees, contractors, students, and volunteers
- Effective annually from November 1 – March 31 (Flu season)



Rationale for the Mandate

- Many HCP (23%) are infected with influenza each season¹
- Those with influenza may shed virus 1 day prior to symptoms²
- Many HCP (46%) continue to work with active flu-like symptoms³

¹Elder AG et al, BMJ 1996; 313: 1241-2

²Suess T et al, PLOS One 2012; 12: e51653

³Esbenshade JC et al, ICHE 2013; 34: 373-8



Rationale for the Mandate (2)

- Influenza vaccination reduces the incidence of laboratory-confirmed influenza, particularly in young, otherwise healthy adults⁴
- Reduce doctor visits by 42% and sick days by 32%⁵
- Nosocomial transmission of influenza is well described⁶, and has been linked to low rates of vaccinated HCP⁷

⁴MMWR 20 Sep 2013

⁵Bridges CB et al, JAMA 2000; 284: 1655-63

⁶Stott DJ et al, Occup Med 2002; 52: 249-53

⁷Salgado CD et al, ICHE 2004; 25: 923-8



LAC ACDC Influenza Vaccination and Masking for HCP Toolkit

- A guide to increasing flu vaccination among HCP in SNF setting and to assist SNFs in complying with the Health Officer Order
- **Table of Contents**
 - Health Officer Order Resources
 - Influenza Vaccination Information
 - Educational Materials
 - Influenza Specimen Collection and Infection Control
 - Additional Resources

<http://publichealth.lacounty.gov/acd/SNFToolKit.htm>

(Influenza Outbreak Prevention and Control Guidelines for Skilled Nursing Facilities- Appendix A)



2016-2017 Seasonal Vaccine

- ❖ The composition of the 2016-17 influenza vaccine in the US will contain the following components:
 - **A/California/7/2009 (H1N1)pdm09-like virus**
 - **A/Hong Kong/4801/2014 (H3N2)-like virus**
 - **B/Brisbane/60/2008-like virus (B/Victoria lineage)**
 - **B/Phuket/3073/2013-like virus (B/Yamagata lineage)**
(quadrivalent only)



Resident Safety - Pneumococcal Vaccine

Pneumococcal Vaccine Timing—For Adults

DO NOT administer PCV13 and PPSV23 at the same visit.

Age 65 Years or Older

• If PCV13 was given before age 65 years, no additional PCV13 is needed.





Tracking Vaccination Rates in HCP

- Healthy People 2020 goal of 90% influenza vaccination among healthcare personnel
- CMS requires reporting of influenza vaccination coverage for HCP in acute care hospitals and may require reporting from SNFs in the future on NHSN using NQF
- Common best practices used in long term care settings:
 - Staff education
 - Employer covered costs of vaccination
 - Easy access to vaccination (on-site)
 - Prizes/incentives

[Community Best Practices - Examples of Successful Influenza Vaccination Programs in Long-term Care \(LTC\) Settings | Seasonal Influenza \(Flu\) | CDC](#)



Resources

- **County of Los Angeles Department of Public Health (DPH)**
 - **Acute Communicable Disease Control Program**
 - **Influenza Outbreak Prevention and Control Guidelines for Skilled Nursing Facilities:**
<http://www.publichealth.lacounty.gov/acd/docs/Flu/FluSNFOBGuidelines/InfluenzaGuidelines07092015.pdf>
 - **Influenza Vaccination for HCP Toolkit for SNFs:**
<http://www.publichealth.lacounty.gov/acd/SNFToolKit.htm>
 - **B-73:** <http://www.ph.lacounty.gov/acd/procs/b73/B73Index.htm>
 - **Immunization Program**
<http://www.ph.lacounty.gov/ip/flu/index.htm>



Other Valuable Resources

- **California Department of Public Health (CDPH):**
 - The HAI Program and Healthcare Personnel Influenza Vaccination <http://www.cdph.ca.gov/programs/hai/Pages/InfluenzaVaccination.aspx>
 - Influenza Vaccination and Respiratory Disease Prevention Educational Materials <http://eziz.org/resources/flu-promo-materials/>
- **Centers for Disease Control and Prevention- Interim Guidance for Influenza Outbreak Management in Long-Term Care Facilities**
 - [Interim Guidance for Influenza Outbreak Management in Long-Term Care Facilities | Health Professionals | Seasonal Influenza \(Flu\)](#)



THANK YOU!

