

Employee Occupational Health Flu Campaign

The Problem

Influenza is a serious illness that adversely affects public health. Every year, 36,000 people in the United States die from flu-related complications. Additionally, influenza-infected health care workers can transmit this deadly virus to vulnerable patients. Getting vaccinated is the single most important thing healthcare workers (HCW) can do for their patients, themselves, colleagues and their family members.

A change in definition of HCW led to a larger pool of employees to vaccinate, with an emphasis on those with the most direct contacts with patients.

Goal for 2008-2009

Vaccinate 70% of all Direct Patient Care Employees (HCW1, 2 & 3) and MDs, targeting the highest vaccination rates among those staff members working most closely with high risk patients: HCW1 and physicians.

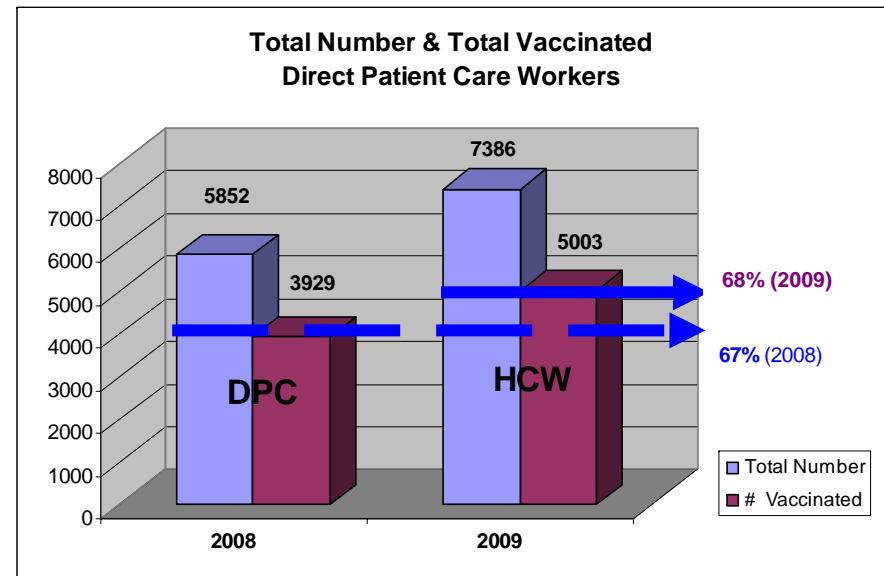
The Team: Flu Steering Committee

Dieter Affeln, MD	Kathy Cunningham	Louise Mackisack
Karen Bithell-Taylor, RN	Jim Heffernan, MD	Kelly Orlando
Alex Carbo, MD	Sandra Hewitt	Matt Rabesa
Carolyn Conti	Lori Howley	Kim Sulmonte, RN
Sharon Wright, MD		

What contributed to this year's success

- Early planning, with continued iterative improvements.
- Excellent vaccine supply, available early in season.
- Kiosks conveniently located where employees frequently travel.
- Increase in the number of units that vaccinated their own staff.
- Increased communications, routine presentations at Leadership meetings and Senior Leadership support.
- First time utilization of flu reports available weekly to managers.
- All educational and reporting materials were made available in 4 different languages.

The Results



Lessons Learned

- The new Health Care Worker designation yielded a larger number of employees making the 70% goal for all direct patient care employees difficult to achieve. We achieved 68% vaccination rate overall with 75% in the HCW1 category – those employees who work most closely with at risk patients.
- Attending physicians responded well to kiosks as well as staff. They achieved a 73% vaccination rate as compared to 61% last year.
- Flu reports assisted managers in getting higher response rates and helped us better identify areas of low uptake.

Next Steps

- Meet throughout the year to ensure our continued success with a focus on: obtaining sufficient vaccine supply, continued information services innovations and strategic marketing to our employees. We will also investigate how we might improve uptake in those areas that did not perform well this year.



Beth Israel Deaconess
Medical Center



A teaching hospital of
Harvard Medical School

THE SILVERMAN INSTITUTE
For Healthcare Quality and Safety

For More Information Contact

Sandra Hewitt, MHA, PT
Co-Chair Flu Steering Comm.
shewitt@bidmc.harvard.edu