

# MORNING CMO REPORT

10.07.2015

**FROM THE DESK OF:**  
Anthony P. Weiss, MD, Chief Medical Officer,  
Associate Dean for Clinical Affairs,  
Upstate University Hospital

**UPSTATE**  
UNIVERSITY HOSPITAL

## Excellence in Health Care Awards

Applies to All Physicians

Awards  
Informational

Congratulations to **Dr. Julius Gene Latorre** and **Dr. Gregory Fink** on receiving the Physician of the Year and Surgeon of the Year awards. They will be honored, along with other community health care providers, at the 2016 Excellence in Health Care Awards on October 22, 2015. For more information, visit:

<http://www.cnybj.com/bizeventz/upcomingevents/tabid/116/ctl/viewdetail/mid/511/itemid/1734/d/20151022/Excellence-in-Healthcare-Awards-2015.aspx>

I will be there and hope that others can join me as we applaud the outstanding work that each of them has done here at Upstate.

## Onondaga County Public Health Updates Fall, 2015

Applies to All Physicians

Public Health  
Updates  
Alert

The transition from Summer to Fall is a busy time for health care providers. Indu Gupta, MD, Commissioner for the Onondaga County Health Department, has published updates on current significant public health issues and shares new ACIP guidelines for the coming flu season in order to inform us about OCHD's flu vaccine planning.

- ✚ Mosquito-borne diseases are still a significant concern: please always send a CSF sample to Wadsworth to test for a panel of pathogens, including arboviruses.
- ✚ Screen for MERS-CoV in travelers returning from the Arabian Peninsula until October 9, 2015
- ✚ New guidelines for 2015-2016 flu vaccines

(See attached file: Fall Updates.pdf)(See attached file: MERS-CoV Update.pdf)

Continued collaboration with the Department of Health is critical to keep our residents healthy and safe in the months to come.

**ALERT**-Highest priority emergency communication; warrants immediate action or attention by the recipient.

**HIGH ADVISORY**-High priority does not warrant immediate action but recipients should be aware.

**ADVISORY**-Provides very important information for a specific incident or situation that does not require immediate action.

**UPDATES TO ALERTS AND ADVISORIES**-Provides updated information regarding an incident or situation; unlikely to require immediate action.

**INFORMATIONAL MESSAGE**-Provides timely information, important for review or serves as a reminder for an action that should be taken.

# MORNING CMO REPORT

10.07.2015

**FROM THE DESK OF:**  
Anthony P. Weiss, MD, Chief Medical Officer,  
Associate Dean for Clinical Affairs,  
Upstate University Hospital

**UPSTATE**  
UNIVERSITY HOSPITAL

## Outstanding Physician Comments

[Applies to All Physicians](#)

Comments  
Informational

Each week we receive written comments from our patients regarding the care we provide within the Hospital. Below are this week's comments from grateful patients receiving care on the units and clinics at Upstate:

**Emergency Department** - Dr. Johnson was very calming, put me at ease. I knew I was in good hands.

**7A** – Dr. Meiss listened to us in the ER and got me admitted.

**10E** – Dr. Graziano and his resident were informing, kind and very patient.

**Medicine Subspecialties** – Dr. Neupane was so calming and reassuring.

**UHCC Neurology** – Dr. Vertino was extremely personable and had a positive attitude  
Dr. Mihaila covered all the bases well and did not brush us off.

**Joslin** – Dr. Izquierdo - sensitive, kind, extremely knowledgeable; makes me feel like he truly cares about me.

Dr. Sharma - he thoroughly explained my condition even drawing a diagram.  
He is extremely knowledgeable.

**University Cardiology** – Dr. Carhart because he has obviously built an excellent team, all of whom are excellent at care for cardiology patients.

**Upstate Urology** – Dr. Bratslavsky is an amazing doctor.

Dr. Vourganti and the nurse who assisted; good team, knowledgeable and personable.

**Upstate Pediatrics** – Dr. Schurmann is a wonderful pediatrician. She is caring, kind, funny and informative. She really seems to love her job.

Dr. Sisskind was fantastic!

**ALERT**-Highest priority emergency communication; warrants immediate action or attention by the recipient.

**HIGH ADVISORY**-High priority does not warrant immediate action but recipients should be aware.

**ADVISORY**-Provides very important information for a specific incident or situation that does not require immediate action.

**UPDATES TO ALERTS AND ADVISORIES**-Provides updated information regarding an incident or situation; unlikely to require immediate action.

**INFORMATIONAL MESSAGE**-Provides timely information, important for review or serves as a reminder for an action that should be taken.



# Onondaga County Health Department

Joanne M. Mahoney, County Executive  
Indu Gupta, MD, MPH, Commissioner of Health

John H. Mulroy Civic Center · 421 Montgomery Street, Syracuse, NY 13202



## PUBLIC HEALTH UPDATES FOR FALL 2015

### EEE and WNV Infection

**We still face the threat of EEE and WNV infections, please continue to send clinical samples for these etiologies:** Till the week ending 9-17-2015 there have been 22 mosquito pools tested positive for EEE, and 7 mosquito pools tested positive for WNV in traps set in our county. In spite of intensive mosquito control measures, we expect disease-carrying mosquitoes to persist until the first hard frost in October. Most recently one resident of the Town of Salina was infected with EEE and died of encephalitis over the Labor day weekend.

***Please always send serum and CSF samples*** on all cases of suspected aseptic meningitis, aseptic or viral meningoencephalitis to Wadsworth laboratory to be tested for the presence of pathogens in the **CSF Summer panel** (Adenovirus, WNV, HSV1, HSV2, CMV, VZV, EBV, HHV6, EEE, St. Louis, Enterovirus, Powassan). This is very important for our epidemiologic investigation, mosquito control and testing, and preventative educational measures to mitigate the risk to the public.

### Middle East Respiratory Syndrome Coronavirus (MERS- CoV) Infection

Every year about 11,000 Muslims from the US travel to Saudi Arabia for the Hajj, which took place from 9/20 to 9/25 this year. Please think about possibility of MERS-CoV in travelers returning from the Arabian Peninsula.

- A recent travel history in suspected patients presenting with fever and respiratory symptoms, especially from now through October 9/2015 (latest onset date for MERS associated with the Hajj) is important.
- Recommendations for signage and travel questions, how to evaluate and order diagnostic tests, how to use airborne Personal Protective Equipment, and immediate report to Local Health Department if a PUI (person under investigation) is suspected can be found in the attached NYSDOH document about MERS-CoV update.

## Seasonal Influenza Vaccines: 2015-16

There have been isolated cases of influenza in NY State at present. Influenza season remains unpredictable but the best part of this is we can all take the steps to prevent it by getting the vaccine and practice good hand hygiene and cough etiquette. This year's vaccine will contain 2 influenza A H1N1, H3N2, and one or two influenza B viruses, depending on the flu vaccine. In response to the antigenic drifts of the circulating A (H3N2) and B (Yamagata lineage) in the last season, the 2015-2016 seasonal vaccine has incorporated these strains as new components. This season we have more vaccine products available with expanded range of indicated ages.

The main changes are as follows:

- **Antigenic composition of U.S. seasonal influenza vaccines:** Four flu virus strains are chosen to be included in the 2015-2016 flu vaccines:
  - (a). The trivalent vaccine contains A/California/7/2009 (H1N1) (unchanged), **A/Switzerland/9715293/2013 (H3N2, new)** and **B/Phuket/3073/2013 (Yamagata lineage, new)**.
  - (b). Quadrivalent influenza vaccines will contain these 3 vaccine viruses, and a B/Brisbane/60/2008 (unchanged) (Victoria lineage) virus.
- Information on influenza vaccine products expected to be available for the 2015–16 season: Flublok (Protein Sciences) is now indicated for persons 18 years and older, and Fluzone (Sanofi-Pasteur) quadrivalent has been approved.
- For 2015-16, ACIP recommends that children aged 6 months through 8 years who have previously received  $\geq 2$  total doses of trivalent or quadrivalent influenza vaccine before July 1, 2015, require only 1 dose for 2015–16
- For healthy children aged 2-8 years: Either live attenuated influenza vaccine (LAIV) and inactivated influenza vaccine (IIV) can be used interchangeably. LAIV is no longer preferred.

<http://www.cdc.gov/mmwr/preview/mmwrhtml/mm6430a3.htm>

Flu vaccine supplies have been ample and available early this season. Please administer the vaccine as soon as it is available, especially to those children 6 mo-8 years of age who need 2 doses this season (given 4 weeks apart) to be fully immunized.

Equally important are personal hygienic practices to prevent the spread of flu: frequent hand washing, cover your cough and stay home if you are sick with the flu.

**OCHD Flu Clinics:** All these events will be advertised to the public by multiple media outlets.

- One drive-through clinic for first responders and members of law enforcement on October 1<sup>st</sup>.

- Free vaccination clinic for the public planned for before Thanksgiving for those who are uninsured.
- Starting later in October, flu vaccines will be administered in the Immunization Clinic held every Wednesday from 9:00 to 12:00PM, Room 30 basement, Civic Center, 421 Montgomery St., Syracuse. . This clinic will offer seasonal flu vaccines throughout the flu season. There is a sliding fee scale but no one is turned away.