

Hospital Data Reporting Requirements: 2012-2013 Health Care Workers Influenza Vaccination Rates Survey

Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ)

The Maryland Health Care Commission has created this Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ) document to facilitate hospital compliance with State data reporting requirements regarding Health Care Workers (HCW) Seasonal Influenza Vaccination Rates. This document will be updated as needed and will serve as a reference for hospital Infection Preventionists and others interested in this data collection and reporting initiative. For additional background information on the Commission's HAI data collection and reporting activities, please visit our website at

http://mhcc.dhmh.maryland.gov/hai/Pages/healthcare_associated_infections/default.aspx to access a copy of the 2012-2013 HCW Influenza Vaccination Survey.

1. Which Maryland hospitals are required to report data on HCW seasonal influenza vaccination rates?

The Maryland Health Care Commission (MHCC) requires all non-federal Maryland acute care general hospitals to report data on the number of paid, full-time and part-time employees and house staff (defined as residents and interns) who received FluMist® or injectable seasonal influenza vaccine (excluding Novel H1N1) on-site or off-site. Although hospitals are required to report to MHCC on these specific health care workers, they are encouraged to vaccinate **all** hospital staff members.

2. Can hospital systems report data for all facilities combined in the survey? For hospital staff that work at more than one hospital, how should the data be reported?

Data must be separately reported for each hospital in the system. To the extent possible, the data reported should reflect the hospital where staff spends the majority of their work hours. If a group of staff work 50 percent at one hospital and 50 percent at another hospital, then divide the group as equally as possible and count half in one hospital, half in the other.

3. How will the Commission report the data collected in the 2012-2013 HCW Seasonal Influenza Vaccination Survey?

The data collected in this 2012-2013 survey will be publicly reported on the Maryland Hospital Performance Evaluation Guide next summer. Hospitals will receive a Preview Report and performance benchmark data from MHCC prior to the public release of the survey data in 2013.

4. What is the effective date of this reporting requirement?

Hospitals are required to report data on the number of HCW seasonal influenza vaccinations for staff during the period from September 1, 2012 through April 15, 2013.

5. What is the schedule and format for reporting data to the Commission?

Data collected on HCW seasonal influenza vaccination rates will be reported to the Commission annually using an on-line survey. Data for the reporting period, September 1, 2012 – April 15, 2013, should be reported to the Commission via the on-line survey by May 15, 2013. Each Maryland hospital received a hardcopy version of the survey via e-mail. The link to the on-line survey will be e-mailed to all hospitals on April 1, 2013.

6. Are ‘prn’ employees included in the reporting of HCW seasonal influenza vaccination rates?

If these employees are paid by the hospital, they must be included in the data reported to the MHCC.

7. Are contract physician groups that work every day in the hospital included in the definition of ‘house staff’ (e.g., hospitalists, intensivists, anesthesiologists, emergency department physicians)?

These groups are not included in the current reporting requirement because they are not considered paid employees of the hospital. However, hospitals are encouraged to vaccinate all staff members, including contract physician groups.

8. Does the definition of ‘residents and interns’ include medical students?

For the purpose of this MHCC reporting requirement, medical students are **not** included in the definition of ‘residents and interns’ and do not have to be reported. However, MHCC encourages hospitals to vaccinate all staff members.

9. Are hospital volunteers included these reporting requirements?

Under current MHCC reporting requirements, data on the vaccination of hospital volunteers is not required. However, MHCC encourages hospitals to vaccinate all health care workers, including volunteers.

10. For health care workers receiving the vaccine off-site, is the hospital required to obtain documentation?

MHCC strongly recommends that hospitals obtain documentation from HCWs who state they have been vaccinated off-site.

11. Is there a standard declination form? If we have our own declination forms, will we need to determine which categories the declining employees choose to report to MHCC?

The Commission does not currently have a standard declination form. To facilitate reporting of required data, the Commission recommends that categories for medical and religious reasons be available options on the HCW declination form used by each hospital.

12. If a HCW declines for a medical reason, are we required to report the specific type of medical reason?

You are only required to report the total number of HCWs who declined for medical reasons. In this survey, medical contraindications include the following: a severe egg allergy, severe allergy to any vaccine component, severe reaction after a previous dose of influenza vaccine, or a history of Guillain-Barre Syndrome. We strongly recommend that HCWs who decline for these reasons provide documentation which can be kept on file at your hospital.

13. For reporting HCW seasonal influenza vaccination status, who is considered a health care worker? Is it direct patient care staff only or everyone that works in the hospital whether they have direct patient contact or not?

Health care workers are defined as paid full-time and part-time hospital employees and house staff (defined as residents and interns). Any health care worker who falls under this description must be included in the data reporting, whether or not they have direct patient contact.