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Influenza Vaccination in School-aged Children

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Introduction

Should schools in the United States require children between the ages of six months to 17 years to have flu accination shots? Influenza is a serious disease that can lead to hospitalization and sometimes even death. According to the Center of Disease Control (CDC), every flu season varies, and an influenza infection can affect people differently. Million of people get the flu every year, hundreds of thousands of people are hospitalized, and thousands or tens of thousands of people die from flu-related causes every year. Everyone is at risk for influenza, but the highest risks lie within children. As a result of the school environment, specifically from children that are not vaccinated, many parents and patients get the vaccine when it is convenient and low in cost. Children have a higher rate of clinical visits and emergency department encounters during the flu season. As such, the CDC recommends that children six months to 17 years be required to receive influenza accinations.

Study Title

- The Under-recognized burden of influenza in young children
- Parental perspective on influenza accination in children: high-risk medical conditions
- Influenza accination efficacy in young children attending childcare: a randomized controlled trial

Sample Demographics

- n: 277
- Children: 1-17 y/o
- Location: Massachusetts and Georgia, United States
- Date: 2000-2007
- Influenza seasons

Results

- Thirty percent of children 2-4 y/o with chronic illnesses were unaccinated.
- Thirty-five percent of children 5-17 y/o with chronic illnesses were unaccinated.
- Twenty percent of children aged 6-17 y/o with high-risk medical conditions were unaccinated.

Discussion

- The under-recognized burden of influenza in young children
- Parental perspective on influenza accination in children: high-risk medical conditions
- Influenza accination efficacy in young children attending childcare: a randomized controlled trial

Conclusion

- Twenty percent of children aged 6-17 y/o with high-risk medical conditions were unaccinated.
- The under-recognized burden of influenza in young children
- Parental perspective on influenza accination in children: high-risk medical conditions
- Influenza accination efficacy in young children attending childcare: a randomized controlled trial

Further Studies

- Family studies should be required to receive influenza vaccinations of children between 2
- Further qualitative studies on viewpoints of influenza accination and the reason for their beliefs in taking the influenza accination
- Further qualitative studies on social media and the effects of accination rates