

HEALTHY CHICAGO

TRANSFORMING THE HEALTH OF OUR CITY

CHICAGO DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC HEALTH

January 2013 **UPDATE**

HEALTHY CHICAGO PRIORITIES

Message From **The Commissioner**

Flu season has hit early and it has hit hard this year. Even though there is a slight decrease in flu cases reported week-to-week, there is still a very real possibility that more flu activity can occur throughout the winter into spring. With that said, Chicago is prepared with vaccines available at clinics, pharmacies and health care providers across the city.

Through numerous public outreach campaigns, CDPH has encouraged Chicagoans to protect themselves against the flu by getting a flu shot and by following simple steps such as washing hands and covering coughs.

Due to our early season, "Vote Healthy, Get a Flu Shot," campaign and citywide Vaccinate Chicago Week initiative, Chicago has made the 2012-13 flu vaccine easily accessible to every Chicagoan, thus increasing access to care for residents in neighborhoods across the city.

Dr. Julie Morita, Medical Director for the CDPH Immunization Program, has served as a local and national expert on the flu situation in Chicago and has appeared on the Today Show, PBS Newshour and multiple Chicago-based media platforms. CDPH also hosted a Twitter chat with Dr. Morita that reached 177,741 people and was named the No. 1 trending topic in Chicago, that day, by Trendsmap.

CDPH will continue to monitor the flu situation in Chicago and will provide weekly flu reports that are available on the CDPH website at www.CityOfChicago.org/Health.

Sincerely,



Bechara Choucair, M.D.

 Tobacco Use	 Obesity Prevention
 HIV Prevention	 Adolescent Health
 Cancer Disparities	 Heart Disease & Stroke
 Access to Care	 Healthy Mothers & Babies
 Communicable Disease Control & Prevention	 Healthy Homes
 Violence Prevention	 Public Health Infrastructure



www.CityofChicago.org/Health



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HEALTHY CHICAGO IMPLEMENTATION

Rush University Medical Center recently began the process to become a baby-friendly hospital. The Baby-Friendly Hospital Initiative (BFHI) was created in 1991 by the World Health Organization and UNICEF to foster maternity care practices that promote and support breastfeeding, which has many health benefits. Through the CDC's *Healthy Places* obesity prevention project, CDPH and the Consortium to Lower Obesity in Chicago Children (CLOCC) are working with HealthConnect One and the Illinois Chapter of the American Academy of Pediatrics to assist Chicago maternity hospitals in improving their support and promotion of breastfeeding through implementation of the BFHI. Fifteen Chicago hospitals are now in the process of implementing the ten steps to become baby-friendly. **(Healthy Mothers and Babies, Obesity Prevention)**



On December 16, Mayor Rahm Emanuel announced that \$1 million in NATO legacy funds will support the development of learning gardens at 60 Chicago Public Schools in communities across the city, providing students with hands-on nutrition and science education opportunities. The effort is organized and implemented by the nonprofit organization The Kitchen [Community] (TKC), which infuses healthy habits and instruction into learning. CPS schools will individually apply to TKC for installation of a learning garden. **(Obesity Prevention, Heart Disease & Stroke)**

CDPH conducts influenza surveillance to monitor how much influenza-like illness is occurring and its severity, and to find out what types of strains are circulating. For the week of December 23-29, 2012, of the 13 hospitals reporting, 7.8% of emergency department visits were due to influenza-like illness. Currently, influenza-like activity is higher than levels seen in the same period during the last two seasons. Vaccination is the best way to protect against influenza infection, and all Chicagoans aged six months and older are encouraged to get vaccinated. Healthcare providers and retail pharmacies continue to have vaccine available, and those without healthcare providers or insurance can call 311 for a list of available CDPH Immunization Clinics. **(Communicable Disease Control & Prevention)**



Mayor Rahm Emanuel receives his flu shot from CDPH's Julie Morita, M.D.



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HEALTHY CHICAGO IMPLEMENTATION

Protected bike lanes on Dearborn Street in the Loop were opened in mid-December. This is the first two-way bike route with dedicated bicycle traffic signals in Chicago. To install the protected bike lanes, one motor vehicle travel lane was removed between Polk Street and Wacker Drive. Chicago Department of Transportation's *Chicago Streets for Cycling Plan 2020*, released in December, sets forth a strategy to achieve the goal of making Chicago the best big city for bicycling in the U.S. **(Obesity Prevention, Heart Disease & Stroke)**



On January 3, the Illinois Information Exchange (ILHIE) and Missouri Health Connection (MHC) announced that they are among the first in the nation to electronically exchange health information through direct secure messages across state lines. Care providers can now send and receive encrypted health information through a secure electronic mailbox over the Internet, which is less time consuming, and more secure, than transmitting information via fax, courier, mail, or phone. To date, over 1,500 providers across Illinois are ILHIE members. **(Public Health Infrastructure)**

As of January 1, the State of Illinois has been smoke-free for 5 years. A celebration was held on January 2, where Mayor Rahm Emanuel signed a proclamation declaring January 2013 to be Smoke-free Illinois Month in Chicago. The proclamation urges the public to acknowledge the benefits of the passage of the Chicago Clean Indoor Air Act (2007) and the importance of prohibiting smoking in all public places and workplaces. The Illinois Department of Public Health reports a noticeable decline in adult smoking since the state went smoke-free. **(Tobacco Use)**



Smoke-Free Illinois Five-Year Celebration with Janet Williams of the American Medical Association, Donna Scrutchins of CDPH, Former State Representative and Cook County Recorder of Deeds Karen Yarbrough and Kathy Drea of the American Lung Association



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Healthy Chicago Grant News

CDPH was awarded \$5K for workforce training from The Mid-America Public Health Training Center at the UIC School for Public Health. The award will be used, in part, to provide management training for staff. **(Public Health Infrastructure)**

On December 27, CDPH was awarded \$6 million which will fund 22 community-based organizations to provide housing assistance and support services in 2013 to persons living with HIV/AIDS and their families. The funding is provided through HUD's Housing Opportunities for Persons with AIDS (HOPWA) Program, and increased by more than \$106,000 from 2012. **(HIV Prevention)**

On December 19, Health and Human Services (HHS) Secretary Kathleen Sebelius announced grant awards to 197 school-based health center programs throughout the U.S. The grant awards come through the Affordable Care Act. Two Chicago school-based health centers were awarded: Erie Family Health Center, Inc. was awarded \$499,702, and TCA Health, Inc. NFP was awarded \$348,000. The funding will allow school-based health centers to serve additional students and to expand services. **(Adolescent Health)**



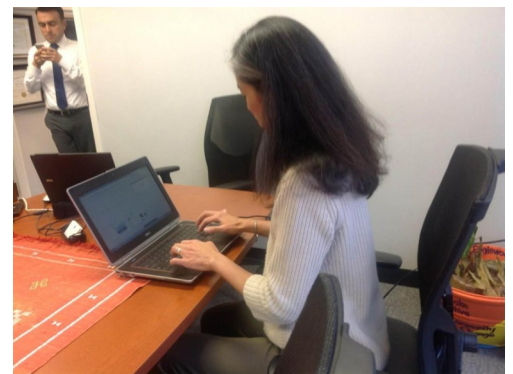
CDPH received four continuation grant awards:

- \$210,893 from HRSA for Ryan White Part C HIV Early Intervention Services. **(HIV Prevention)**
- \$1,599,628 from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) for Sexually Transmitted Disease Control. **(Communicable Disease Control & Prevention)**
- \$585,614 for HIV/AIDS Surveillance. **(HIV Prevention)**
- \$105,518 for Epidemiology and Laboratory Capacity related to disease outbreak investigations, influenza, and electronic data reporting. **(Communicable Disease Control & Prevention)**

Getting The Word Out

January is National Radon Action month, and the CDPH is encouraging all Chicagoans to test their homes for harmful levels of radon. Radon, a naturally occurring radioactive gas, can move up from the ground and into homes through cracks and holes in the foundation. Low cost test kits are available throughout the city and online and limited testing is available through CDPH. For more information, residents should call (312) 747-5323. **(Healthy Homes)**

On Friday, January 11, CDPH's Julie Morita, M.D. responded to questions about the flu on Twitter. The chat reached 177,741 people and received more than 25 responses. For more information, go to www.twitter.com/ChiPublicHealth. **(Communicable Disease Control & Prevention)**



To get involved in the Healthy Chicago movement email CDPH at HealthyChicago@cityofchicago.org.



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