

Seasonal and Pandemic Influenza: Killers Both
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- **Seasonal influenza is currently the leading cause of vaccine preventable death in the United States**
- Causes 36,000 deaths and 200,000 hospitalizations each year
- 50 - 150 U.S. children dying annually isn't bothersome to most Americans
- Children under 2 years have the same rate of hospitalization as the elderly
- Children age 2-5 years have more medical visits, antibiotic prescriptions and their parents miss work
- School age children have the highest infection rate-up to 30%
- Influenza is not easily recognized
- Influenza vaccine myths persist
- Every study done indicates that influenza vaccine is cost-saving

- **Seasonal influenza prevention**
- Hand hygiene
- Cough etiquette
- Social distancing
 - Avoid sick people
 - Stay at home when you are sick
- Annual immunization is the best way to avoid flu and its complications
 - All children 6 months-18 years; all pregnant women
 - All people having contact with infants (age <1 year); all HCPs
 - All people with underlying health conditions; all people older than 49
- 2009-2010 influenza vaccine
 - 120 million doses
 - Available in September
 - Get immunized early
 - Protection gained in September will last through May and beyond

- **Pandemic (novel H1N1) influenza**
 - Mild illness so far; deaths only in people with underlying chronic illnesses
 - Age groups most affected: the young
 - More cases will occur because everyone is susceptible (only evidence of cross-protection are in those >59 years of age)
 - There is no protection against novel H1N1 from seasonal influenza vaccination
 - Prevention: hand hygiene; cough etiquette; social distancing; ?vaccine