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News Release

For Immediate Release

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Kansas hospital personnel rank among top in the nation for getting influenza vaccinations

(Topeka, KS) More hospital personnel in Kansas are protecting themselves and their patients from the flu each year, placing Kansas among the top in the nation. The annual Health Care Personnel (HCP) Influenza Immunization Survey, conducted by Kansas Healthcare Collaborative (KHC), found that 93.6 percent of hospital personnel in Kansas received influenza vaccination during the 2016-17 flu season.

The District of Columbia had the highest proportion of hospital personnel in the nation who received immunization, with 97.2 percent, according to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC). Kansas ranked eleventh. The national average was 92.3 percent for hospital personnel immunization.

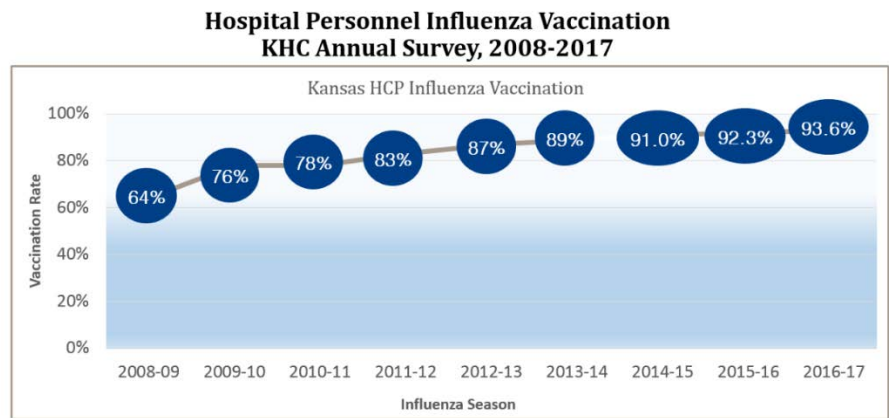
“Hospitals in Kansas are providing education on the importance of safety measures such as immunization against influenza,” said Kendra Tinsley, KHC executive director. “This is part of an on-going effort across our state to improve employee and patient safety and health care outcomes.”

KHC works with hospitals and health care professionals throughout the state, providing education and encouraging the adoption of best practices and resource sharing to improve health care quality, safety and value.

(more)



The immunization rate among hospital personnel has increased steadily each year since the first survey conducted in 2009 for the 2008-09 flu season. At that time, 64 percent received influenza immunization. This past year, the hospital personnel immunization rate increased by 1.3 percent, from 92.3 percent for the 2015-16 flu season to 93.6 percent for the 2016-17 flu season.



*The break after 2013-14 reflects a change in the scope of the survey. In 2008-09 to 2013-14, the survey included employees only. Since 2014-15 the scope now includes employees, licensed professionals, students, volunteers, and contractors.

Ninety-eight percent of Kansas hospitals participated in this year’s survey, with 138 of the 141 hospitals surveyed in the state responding. KHC collected the data from the CDC’s National Healthcare Safety Network and through an online survey for the 2016-17 survey of Kansas Hospital Health Care Personnel Influenza Immunization.

Survey findings also show that hospitals are achieving higher immunization rates by providing employee education on the health risks of the flu and the benefits of immunization, by aligning policies with national recommendations, and by making vaccination opportunities convenient for employees. Most hospitals provided on-site vaccination at no cost or low cost to increase influenza immunization coverage. Among its resources, KHC maintains an online HCP Influenza Immunization Toolkit for hospitals.

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KHC is a nonprofit organization dedicated to transforming health care through patient-centered initiatives that improve quality, safety and value. Formed in 2008, KHC acts as a resource to enhance the care Kansans receive by engaging and aligning with providers to continually improve health care quality and patient outcomes. For more information about KHC, visit www.khconline.org.