




**SCHOOL BASED
IMMUNIZATION:
MAKING THE RIGHT
CHOICE EASY**

**Francis J. Rogalski MD, MPH
Health Heroes, Inc.**



HEALTH HEROES

- National school-located community immunizer
 - Synopsis of our birth
 - Reducing influenza related morbidity and mortality
 - Understanding community needs to provide solutions
 - Coordination with public health and education departments
 - Education of school officials and parents
 - Cold chain technology
- 



INFLUENZA: AN AGE-OLD DISEASE, A DISEASE FOR ALL AGES

- Epidemics described since 12th century
- Many animal species vulnerable
- 1933: Influenza A virus isolated
- 1934: Virus transmissibility confirmed
- 1937: First vaccine research
- 1944: Vaccine licensure
- 8th leading cause of death in the U.S.



**INFLUENZA:
THE DISEASE
AND ITS
COMPLICATIONS**





CLINICAL DESCRIPTION/SYMPTOMS

- Incubation period
- Abrupt onset
- Infectivity and shedding
- Transmission






SEVERITY OF DISEASE IN CHILDREN

- Common complications
- Non-respiratory complications
- Physician visits
- Hospitalization
- Death





WHY TARGET HEALTHY CHILDREN?

- Children acquire and shed virus more frequently than adults
 - Role in transmission in daycare, school, and households
 - Socioeconomic effects of influenza on children and contacts
 - Presence of children the most important determinant of influenza within the family
 - The Japanese experience
- 



COVERAGE RATES FOR TARGETED GROUPS 2014-2015

- All people >6 mos of age 47%
- 6 mos-17 yrs 59%
- 5 yrs-17 yrs 56%
- 18 yrs and above 44%






OBSTACLES TO OPTIMAL COVERAGE

- Missed opportunities
- Short season (or perception of same)
- Lack of awareness
- Vaccine misconceptions
- Removal of barriers
- Fluctuations in vaccine supply





OPPORTUNITIES FOR IMPROVEMENT

- Extending the vaccination season
 - Educating parents, dispelling myths
 - Seizing opportunities
 - Providing additional venues for immunization
 - Universal school requirement
- 

VACCINATION OF SCHOOLCHILDREN AND THE DOWNSTREAM BENEFITS

- Decreased school absences
- Avoidance of targeted school closings
- Decreased sibling illness rates
- Decreased lost workdays for parents
- Decreased rates of illness in the community
- Decreased direct and indirect medical/economic costs





SUCCESS LEVERS

- Public Health Coordination
- Department of Education Coordination
- School Partnership
- School Nurse Partnership
- Health Hero



PREVENTION OF INFLUENZA AMONG
INFANTS AND YOUNG CHILDREN IS A
PUBLIC HEALTH PRIORITY!

EDUCATE – ADVOCATE
INNOCULATE

