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## APIC RESPONDS TO HURRICANE KATRINA DISASTER

*"In the Wake of Hurricane Katrina's terrible devastation, our thoughts are with our colleagues and friends in the affected areas. To the extent possible, APIC is reaching out to offer assistance to infection prevention and control professionals involved in the recovery effort." -- www.apic.org*

You can e-mail [HurricanRecovery@apic.org](mailto:HurricanRecovery@apic.org) if you are interested in learning more about volunteering, please include any areas of expertise that may be needed, i.e. construction, disinfection/sterilization, dealing with chemicals, issues with water etc. National APIC is evaluating the membership's interest in volunteering and establishing a list of willing members should the need arise.

Visit [www.apic.org](http://www.apic.org) for more resources on Hurricane Katrina relief.



## STATE LEGISLATIVE UPDATES

### AB 1711

This bill was signed by the Governor and chaptered by the Secretary of State on July 18, 2005. Skilled nursing facilities can now create standing orders for influenza and pneumococcal vaccination of residents.

### SB 739

This bill regarding mandatory reporting of HAIs has been put into the suspension file since it did not pass the Assembly. Because this is a two year bill, it may be taken up again in January for Assembly approval.



To learn who your California State legislative representatives are, visit the following website and enter your zip code in the box specified.

<http://www.leginfo.ca.gov/yourleg.html>



To research current and historical federal legislation, visit the following website.

<http://thomas.loc.gov/>



## FEDERAL CONGRESSIONAL UPDATES

### S 969

Senator Barack Obama from Illinois sponsored this bill entitled "Attacking Viral Influenza Across Nations Act of 2005", or AVIAN Act for short. This bill addresses national preparation for an influenza pandemic including assisting other countries in preparedness activities. Some of the key elements are:

- Establishes the Pandemic Influenza Preparedness Policy Coordinating Committee to develop an Interagency Preparedness Plan
- Requires states to have an approved state preparedness plan in order to receive funds related to bioterrorism
- Directs Secretary of Health and Human Services to: 1) procure doses of antivirals and vaccines for Strategic National Stockpile; and 2) assist other countries in preparation for and response to pandemic influenza
- Requires the Director of the National Institutes of Health and the Director of CDC to expand and intensify influenza research

APIC has publicly commended Senator Obama for introducing this bill and posted an alert on the website for members to encourage their congressional members to vote in favor of this bill. Visit the link below to provide support for this important piece of legislation.

<http://capwiz.com/apic/issues/alert/?alertid=7985056&type=CO>

## MANDATORY INFLUENZA VACCINATION FOR HEALTH CARE WORKERS

In the January 2005 issue of *Vaccine*, an article entitled "Requiring influenza vaccination for health care workers: seven truths we must accept" was published. The article describes the failure of voluntary influenza immunization programs as evidenced by only 36% of US health care workers (HCWs) receiving the flu vaccine in 2002. As Infection Control Practitioners, we are all aware of the challenges faced by organizations trying to increase the percentage of HCWs who receive the influenza vaccine each year. We know the risk posed to our patients who are the most vulnerable to complications of influenza infection. The "seven truths" are presented with supporting data and information. They are as follows:

1. "Influenza infection is a serious illness causing significant morbidity and mortality adversely affecting the public health on an annual basis."
2. "Influenza-infected health care workers can transmit this deadly virus to their vulnerable patients."
3. "Influenza vaccination of health care workers saves money for employees and employers and prevents workplace disruption."
4. "Influenza vaccination of health care workers is already recommended by the CDC and is the standard of care."
5. "Immunization requirements are effective and work in increasing vaccination rates."
6. "Health care workers and health care systems have an ethical and moral duty to protect vulnerable patients from transmissible diseases."
7. "The health care system will either lead or be lambasted."

If you are interested in reading the entire article, visit the site below.

[http://www.apic.org/AM/Template.cfm?Section=Healthcare\\_Worker\\_Immunization&Template=/CM/ContentDisplay.cfm&ContentFileID=2643](http://www.apic.org/AM/Template.cfm?Section=Healthcare_Worker_Immunization&Template=/CM/ContentDisplay.cfm&ContentFileID=2643)

15 states have current laws regarding mandatory influenza vaccination for employees of long-term care facilities: Alabama, Arkansas, Florida, Kentucky, Maine, Maryland, New Hampshire, New York, North Carolina, Oklahoma, Oregon, Pennsylvania, Rhode Island, Texas and Utah. Currently, no legislation has been proposed in California. The following link will take you to a document describing each states specific law.

[http://www.apic.org/AM/Template.cfm?Section=Healthcare\\_Worker\\_Immunization&Template=/CM/ContentDisplay.cfm&ContentFileID=2644](http://www.apic.org/AM/Template.cfm?Section=Healthcare_Worker_Immunization&Template=/CM/ContentDisplay.cfm&ContentFileID=2644)

On July 29, 2005, the new ACIP recommendations for the prevention and control of influenza were published in the MMWR. This link will take you to the full document.

<http://www.cdc.gov/mmwr/PDF/rr/rr5408.pdf>

CDC immunization bulletins on influenza for 2005:

[http://www.cdc.gov/flu/professionals/bulletin/pdf/2005-06/bulletin1\\_062905.pdf](http://www.cdc.gov/flu/professionals/bulletin/pdf/2005-06/bulletin1_062905.pdf)

[http://www.cdc.gov/flu/professionals/bulletin/pdf/2005-06/bulletin2\\_090805.pdf](http://www.cdc.gov/flu/professionals/bulletin/pdf/2005-06/bulletin2_090805.pdf)

**"Patience and perseverance have a magical effect before which difficulties disappear and obstacles vanish."**

-- John Quincy Adams

*To provide suggestions for this newsletter or ask questions, please contact:*

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