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Influenza: A serious disease needs a serious vaccination

Influenza vaccines have been used for more than 60 years and have proven safe and effective. Spanish influenza (1918) killed 20-50 million people worldwide. Epidemic and pandemic influenza infection cause tremendous social impacts in addition to generating serious threats to the health and lives of the global population. Awareness and interest of the public vaccination appear not to be very high. Most of the flu viruses are known to replicate (essentially Avian and also pigs). Most human infections with flu virus are mild. Infections concern upper respiratory tract illness essentially. Respiratory infection could onset with mild to severe symptoms. The current level of vaccination coverage all over the world is unable to reach the effectiveness of herd immunity. Vaccine development and production takes more than 3 months. Severe and fatal infections occurred among certain risk groups with chronic diseases. In France, for example, unfavorable attitudes towards vaccination in general dramatically increased from 8.5% in 2000 to 38% in 2010. Internet is the second most trust source of health information (following general practitioner). Providing accurate pandemic related information to the public is essential.

Biography

Frederic J Deschamps is a Medical Doctor since 1990 and he has completed his PhD in Toxicology in 1993 at the University of Lille, France. He is the Director of the Department of Occupational Health of the Medicine Faculty of Reims, France. He has published more than 40 papers in medical journals about occupational health and diseases.

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