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*Captain's Call*

Navy Public Health Center Web site Offers Flu-Related Info

The Navy and Marine Corps Public Health Center (NMCPHC) in Portsmouth, Va., manages a comprehensive influenza Web site that offers up-to-date guidance about influenza infection.

The site provides situational awareness and responses to the always evolving threat of influenza, as well as offering guidance for the prevention and control of infection.

The publicly accessible site is geared toward healthcare and non-healthcare professionals, military members and those eligible for military health benefits.

NMCPHC receives guidance, policies and memos from such entities as the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, the Department of Defense, the Department of Homeland Security and the Department of the Navy.

As NMCPHC receives updates about influenza, the center posts and categorizes pertinent information. A portion of the site is designed specifically for healthcare professionals and non-healthcare professionals both in and out of the military.

The site provides information such as who receives immunizations first, when to employ different guidance throughout the year, when to increase surveillance on possible outbreak and how to report influenza-related events discovered at commands or activities.

Along with a description of signs and symptoms of infection, the site also explains concerns about pregnant women and infection, and specific issues regarding people with special needs. Of special interest is a link that graphically outlines how infections travel.

For more information and resources, visit the influenza Web site at http://www-nehc.med.navy.mil/Diseases_Conditions/influenza_resources.aspx.

