

L&D ASSOCIATES' NEWSLETTER

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LATEST LINKS

The National Library of Medicine has released an updated, user friendly web site to research toxicology and environmental health risks. The web site is called

Welcome to Tox Town

An introduction to toxic chemicals and environmental health risks you might encounter in everyday life, in everyday places. You can find this web site at <http://www.toxtown.nlm.nih.gov/>

GRANT WRITING

You are likely to find preliminary grant writing steps to be the most time consuming, yet most vital aspect of the process. Done well, your initial work will improve the writing stage.

Stages of the Writing Process

1. Define your project

See Last Issue

2. Identify the right funding sources

See Last Issue

3. Contact the funders

Virtually all grant and contract announcements provide contact information for project officers or grant administrators in each agency. These are the persons with the information you need to determine if your agency and proposed project fit with the philosophy and target projects for the funding agency.

Having *defined your project* you should have a clear presentation scheme for any agency representative to describe your project and how you think it fits with their agency. At the conclusion of this conversation you will know whether or not you should continue with an application to this agency.

4. Acquire proposal guidelines

Now that you have identified a funding agency you should request grant deadlines and guidelines for the grant writing process.

Read the grant instructions.

Read the grant instructions.

Read the grant instructions.

5. Know the submission deadline

6. Determine personnel needs

7. Update your timeline

See the next issue for more information

EVIDENCE-BASED LITERATURE

From [Morbidity & Mortality Weekly Report](#)

Update: Influenza Activity --- United States and Worldwide, 2005--06 Season, and Composition of the 2006--07 Influenza Vaccine

During the 2005--06 influenza season, influenza A (H1N1), A (H3N2), and B viruses cocirculated worldwide. In the United States, influenza A (H3N2) viruses predominated overall, but influenza B viruses were isolated more frequently than influenza A viruses late in the season. Influenza activity in the United States peaked in early March, and the number of pneumonia and influenza deaths did not exceed the epidemic threshold. Worldwide, influenza B viruses were the most commonly reported influenza type in Europe; influenza A (H1N1) and influenza B viruses predominated in Asia. Through June 13, 2006, outbreaks of influenza A (H5N1) viruses (avian influenza) among migratory birds and poultry flocks were associated with severe human illness or death in 10 countries (Azerbaijan, Cambodia, China, Djibouti, Egypt, Indonesia, Iraq, Thailand, Turkey, and Vietnam). This report summarizes influenza activity in the United States and worldwide during the 2005--06 influenza season and describes composition of the 2006--07 influenza vaccine.

United States

The national percentage of respiratory specimens testing positive for influenza and the proportion of outpatient visits to sentinel providers for influenza-like illness (ILI)* peaked in early March 2006. Influenza A (H3N2) viruses were most commonly isolated overall, but influenza B viruses were more frequently identified than influenza A viruses during late April and May. A small number of influenza A (H1N1) viruses also were identified.

[Read more.....](#)

EVALUATION TIPS

Developing the evaluation plan: The evaluation plan should be developed as a collaborative effort between your institution and the contract evaluator. The process should include input from throughout your institution and consider all stakeholder input.

The final evaluation plan will permit you and your institution to

- identify the intended participants or audience for the evaluation (stakeholder analysis)
- define the evaluation objectives
- focus on defining the depth of the evaluation program
- consider the resources (both financial and human) and time required to complete the plan

There are five principle questions to consider:

1. What is being evaluated?
2. What are the reasons for conducting the evaluation?
3. What is the environment in which the evaluation is conducted?
4. Who will benefit from the evaluation?
5. What evaluation questions will be asked?

NEWS IN INFECTIOUS DISEASE RESEARCH

A Community-wide Pertussis Outbreak: An Argument for Universal Booster Vaccination.

Author(s): Schafer S; Gillette H; Hedberg K; Cieslak P;

BACKGROUND: Pertussis incidence has increased in the United States since 1980, punctuated by outbreaks that involve adults and adolescents. We investigated a community-wide outbreak and studied risk factors among adults to identify prevention and control opportunities.

METHODS: We analyzed surveillance data, interviewed patients, visited outbreak sites, and conducted a case-control study of risk factors for first-in-household adult infection during a Jackson County, Oregon, outbreak in 2003. **RESULTS:** In Jackson County, 135 pertussis cases were reported; the incidence was 71 per 100 000 population compared with 0 to 1 per 100 000 population from 1995 through 2001. Case investigations identified 2658 close contacts (19.7 per case); 1050 (40%) received antibiotic prophylaxis. Older children and adolescents (aged 10-17 years) and adults (aged ≥ 18 years) accounted for 67% of cases. Five infants were hospitalized (192 hospitalizations per 100 000

infants) compared with 18 in the remainder of the state (33 per 100 000 infants). Many cases occurred among epidemiologically linked clusters of varied composition, such as jail inmates and employees, methamphetamine users, low-income housing residents, school students and employees, and employees in certain work settings. Adult patients were more likely than controls to live with children aged 6 to 10 years (odds ratio, 6.4; 95% confidence interval, 1.8-23.4) and less likely to report a complete childhood vaccination history (odds ratio, 0.1; 95% confidence interval, 0.003-0.9).

CONCLUSION: The predominance of adolescent and adult cases, appearance of new clusters despite aggressive control efforts, clustering of cases in hard-to-reach populations, and absence of modifiable risk factors for adult disease in this outbreak all suggest that universal booster vaccination of adolescents and adults might offer the only effective means to prevent such events in the future.

Archives of Internal Medicine.; 2006 Jun 26;166(12)

FOR MORE INFORMATION

Contact L&D Associates Consulting Group on any of the following topics:

- Public Health Research
- Grant and Contract Writing
- Grant Evaluation Services
- Evaluation
- Research Administration
- Rural Telecommunications
- Technical Writing
- Program Management

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