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For Immediate Release

RESEARCHERS FIND MANDATORY INFLUENZA VACCINE AMONG HEALTH CARE WORKERS FAVORABLE

Kansas City, Mo – January 11, 2010 - Researchers at Children's Mercy Hospitals and Clinics found that 70 percent of their employees were in favor of mandatory influenza vaccinations among health care workers. The research was published in the January issue of the [Archives of Pediatrics & Adolescent Medicine](#).

The researchers studied a random sample of 585 health care workers, including physicians, nurses, and all other hospital employees. Nearly all of the health care workers who favored the mandatory immunization had been immunized themselves. The study also found that individuals who supported mandatory policies were more likely to believe that the vaccine is safe for both children and adults.

"Our goal was to evaluate the knowledge, attitudes, and beliefs regarding mandatory influenza vaccination among health care workers," says [Angela L. Myers, MD, MPH, Infectious Diseases specialist](#) at Children's Mercy, and principal investigator of the study. "We wanted to find out if we implemented a mandatory policy how health care workers would perceive it, and could it change their views on adult vaccinations. At our institution we make sure every child is up to date on vaccinations, so we wanted to study if our health care workers were immunizing themselves."

Of those health care workers who opposed mandatory immunization, more than 55% had been immunized. Only 29% of antimandate employees believed they were at high risk of contracting influenza, compared with 51% of promandate employees. The study concludes that education targeting health care workers about the benefits of influenza vaccines may decrease the number of unimmunized health care workers.

"Approval of mandatory influenza vaccine policies was high." Dr. Myers says. "We found no difference in the pro versus anti-mandate employees in terms of the concern for patient safety, but those who were anti mandate were less likely to think they were at risk for contracting influenza in the hospital environment."

About Children's Mercy Hospitals and Clinics

Children's Mercy Hospitals and Clinics in Kansas City, Mo. is one of the nation's top, pediatric medical centers. Recognized by the American Nurses Credentialing Center for excellence in nursing services, and ranked in 2009 by *U.S. News & World Report* as one of "America's Best Children's Hospitals," Children's Mercy provides outstanding pediatric care for children from birth through the age of 18. With a 314-bed facility, Level IIIc neonatal intensive care unit, Level I pediatric trauma center, faculty of 600 pediatricians, and [40 subspecialties](#), it is one of the largest and most comprehensive pediatric medical centers in the country. In addition to a mission of caring for children regardless of their family's ability to pay, Children's Mercy is actively involved in clinical care, pediatric research, and educating the next generation of pediatric subspecialists. More information about Children's Mercy and its research can be found on our web site at

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