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Update on Rolfes et al, "Effects of Influenza Vaccination in the United States During the 2017–2018 Influenza Season"

Melissa A. Rolfes,

Carrie Reed,

Alicia M. Fry

Influenza Division, Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, Atlanta, Georgia, USA

To the Editor—Updated information is available for an article published online in *Clinical Infectious Diseases* in 2019 [1]. In the article, the authors estimated the overall burden of influenza and the burden of influenza prevented by influenza vaccination during the 2017–2018 influenza season in the United States. These estimates were based on mathematical models that used the data available at the time of publication. As stated in the limitations of the article, some of the data for the model were not available for the 2017–2018 season and, as updated data became available, published estimates would be revised. Since publication, new data are available, and the authors wish to inform readers that estimates of the burden of influenza and the effect of influenza vaccination during the 2017–2018 season have been revised.

In more detail, 2 inputs in the model—influenza diagnostic testing practices for hospitalized patients and the ratio of hospitalizations to deaths—have a known time lag between the end of the influenza season and when seasonal data become available. The authors try to balance timeliness and accuracy of the burden estimates. To provide timely estimates to the public, clinicians, and public health decision makers, we use preliminary data that may lead to over-estimates or underestimates. The estimates are later updated when additional data are available.

The revised and most current estimates of the effect of influenza vaccination during the 2017–2018 season are available on the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention influenza webpage (https://www.cdc.gov/flu/vaccines-work/past-burden-averted-est.html). The revised estimates continue to be preliminary, using data through the 2016–2017 season on influenza testing practices and the ratio of hospitalizations to deaths; these estimates will be updated again and finalized in the fall of 2020, once final data from the 2017–2018 season become available. The authors expect that testing practices could continue to be quite variable from

Correspondence: M. A. Rolfes, Influenza Division, Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, 1600 Clifton Rd NE, Atlanta, GA 30329 (mrolfes1@cdc.gov).

***Disclaimer*.** The findings and conclusions in this report are those of the authors and do not necessarily represent the official position of the CDC.

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year to year; thus, future estimates of influenza burden and burden of influenza prevented by vaccination will continue to be made available to the public using available data and revised as more recent information are available. The most up-to-date estimates of influenza burden and burden averted by vaccination for the 2017–2018 and other influenza seasons will be available at the website cited above.

Reference

1. Rolfes MA, Flannery B, Chung J, et al. Effects of influenza vaccination in the United States during the 2017–2018 influenza season. Clin Infect Dis 2019; 69:1845–53. [PubMed: 30715278]