(i.e., medical technicians, pharmacists and administrators). Reasons of declining influenza vaccination included doubt of the need for the vaccine (27.8%), concern of vaccine safety (21.0%), bad experience following vaccination in the previous year (41.5%), insufficient time to attend immunisation clinic (9.6%) and fear of the needle (6.6%).

Conclusion Number of confirmed influenza cases is mostly under-reported. HCPs are at increased risk for influenza infection and efforts should focus on Infection prevention strategies and increasing immunization coverage among HCPs and patients.

**Abstracts**

**AIRBORNE DISPERSION OF LEPTOSPIROSIS IN A MEAT PROCESSING PLANT**


**Introduction** Leptospirosis is the most common occupational zoonosis in New Zealand, with the highest incidence observed in meat processing workers and farm workers. New Zealand has a high incidence of human infection relative to other temperate developed countries, and the organism is widespread in livestock. Serological testing has confirmed infection in livestock presenting to abattoirs and in meat workers. The objective of this study was to determine whether leptospires were present in bioaerosols within the abattoir.

**Methods** Ambient air samples (n=18) were collected in an abattoir from ovine and bovine processing areas, using a SASS 3100 high volume sampler located adjacent to workers performing exsanguination (halal sticking), pelt removal, evisceration, a splitting saw (bovine only) and boning or meat cutting. Nucleic acid (DNA) in the bioaerosol samples was amplified using multiple displacement amplification (MDA) for metagenomic analysis, but the material was also tested for specific pathogenic species including *L. interrogans* sv Pomona and *L. borstelerae* sv Hardjobovis by quantitative PCR. The original (unamplified) DNA samples were also tested.

**Result** Leptospires were detected in 11 of the (MDA) samples from both ovine and bovine processing areas at the splitting saw, evisceration, exsanguination and pelting removal. There was no evidence of leptospires in samples taken in the boning or meat cutting areas, or in the five blanks taken. Two of the original DNA samples, both from the ovine pelt removal area, also tested positive for leptospires.

**Discussion** This is the first study to show that leptospires can be detected in a bioaerosol within an abattoir, suggesting a possible route of transmission to meat workers. The organism was detected at locations adjacent to slaughter, pelting removal and evisceration, with the strongest evidence near ovine pelting removal. This distribution directly mirrors the pattern of risk shown in serological testing of meat workers.

**Integrated Worker Health and Well Being**

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**DEVELOPING HEALTHY WORKPLACES IN IRELAND**

Biddy O’Neill*, Health and Wellbeing Programme, Department of Health, Dublin, Ireland

**Aim of special session** To outline key elements in the development of the Healthy Workplace Framework and present Irish worksite case study

Mr. Robert F. Murphy1, Dr. Helen McAvoy2, Dr. Margaret Hodgins3, Ms. Una Feeley4

1. Dublin South West Community Healthcare, Dublin, Ireland; 2. Galway Roscommon University Hospitals, Roscommon, Ireland; 3. Galway University Hospital, Galway, Ireland; 4. University College Cork, Cork, Ireland

**Conclusion** The development of the Healthy Workplace Framework in Ireland is in its early stages, with the aim of reducing workplace-related ill health and workplace injury. The framework is underpinned by a number of key principles, including a commitment to the health and well-being of employees, a focus on prevention, and the involvement of employees in the development and implementation of workplace health and safety policies and procedures. The implementation of the framework is guided by a number of key stakeholders, including government departments, employers, and trade unions.

**Discussion** The development of the Healthy Workplace Framework in Ireland is a significant step forward in the promotion of workplace health and safety. The framework provides a comprehensive and dynamic approach to the prevention of workplace-related ill health and workplace injury, and is underpinned by a number of key principles, including a commitment to the health and well-being of employees, a focus on prevention, and the involvement of employees in the development and implementation of workplace health and safety policies and procedures. The implementation of the framework is guided by a number of key stakeholders, including government departments, employers, and trade unions.

**Conclusion** The development of the Healthy Workplace Framework in Ireland is in its early stages, with the aim of reducing workplace-related ill health and workplace injury. The framework is underpinned by a number of key principles, including a commitment to the health and well-being of employees, a focus on prevention, and the involvement of employees in the development and implementation of workplace health and safety policies and procedures. The implementation of the framework is guided by a number of key stakeholders, including government departments, employers, and trade unions.