

1 Problem

FLU VACCINE

Cause Map

What	Problem(s)	Flu vaccine is less effective than normal
When	Date	2014-2015
	Different, unusual, unique	?
Where	Facility, site	Vaccination providers worldwide
	Task being performed	Vaccination again flu
Impact to the Goals	Safety	Potential for more flu cases
	Public Safety	Potential more individuals may skip flu vaccine
	Customer Service	Public concerned about flu vaccine
	Regulatory	Concern about effectiveness of flu vaccine

This year's flu vaccine only about 23% effective

According to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), the flu vaccine for the 2014-2015 flu season is only about 23% effective among people of all ages. While the flu vaccine is never perfect, the effectiveness is generally closer to 60% percent.

Cause Mapping is a Root Cause Analysis method that captures basic cause-and-effect relationships supported with evidence.

CAUSE MAPPING

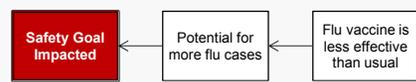
Problem Solving • Incident Investigation • Root Cause Analysis

- Step 1 Problem** - What's the Problem?
- Step 2 Analysis** - Why did it happen?
- Step 3 Solutions** - What will be done?

2 Analysis

Basic Level Cause Map - Start with simple Why questions.

Basic Cause-and-Effect



The strains of flu that are circulating generally morph from year to year and a new vaccine is needed to protect against them. The lag time inherent in developing a new vaccine also makes attacking this moving target difficult. It just takes time to develop a new vaccine that needs to be tested, manufactured and distributed to millions of people.

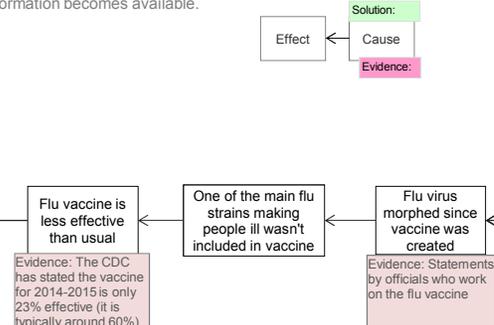
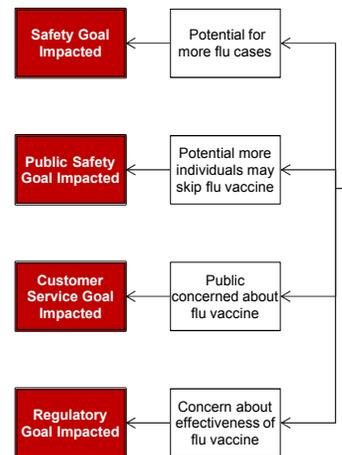
For a free copy of our Root Cause Analysis Template in Microsoft Excel, used to create this page, visit our web site.

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"How well the flu vaccine works can vary depending on a number of factors, including the similarity between circulating influenza viruses and vaccine viruses, and the age, health or immune status of the person vaccinated. The findings for vaccine effectiveness (VE) against H3N2 viruses this season are about one-third of the VE expected when the flu vaccine is well matched to circulating influenza viruses."

-Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) website

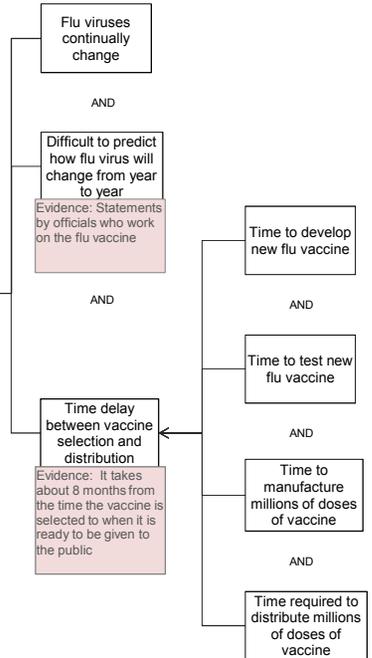
More Detailed Cause Map - Add detail as information becomes available.



Why?

Effect ← Cause

NOTE: Read the Cause Map from left to right with the phrase "Was Caused By" in place of each arrow.



3 Solutions

The question of how to prevent a similar problem in the future is tricky and doesn't have simple answers. There are scientists working to develop antigens that would respond to a part of the flu virus that doesn't change, which could potentially lead to a longer lasting flu vaccine. Until then the best way you can protect yourself is to get the flu vaccine each year. The CDC still recommends people receive the vaccine this year, even with the lower effectiveness, because it does offer some protection against the flu.

And wash your hands often with soap...that is always the simplest way to reduce the spread of disease.