

# EPIDEMIOLOGICAL BULLETIN

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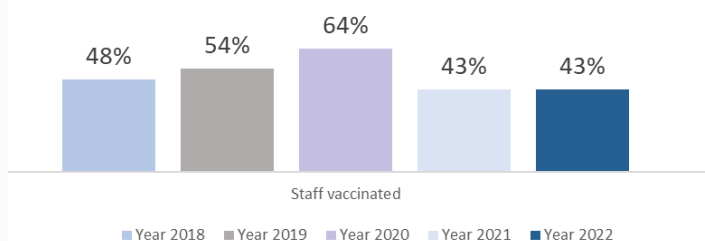
## Influenza Vaccine staff Campaign winter 2022

The campaign started a few weeks earlier than previous years for healthcare staff and community members who are at risk of flu complications. HMC offered free updated seasonal influenza vaccines for staff from 5 September 2022 at more than 20 locations across its hospitals.

The circulating flu viruses change from year to year which is why it is necessary to receive the updated flu vaccine annually. Flu can be a serious disease that can lead to hospitalization and sometimes, even death and should never be underestimated. With limited circulation of the flu in the past two winter seasons due in part to COVID-19 preventive measures, immunity has waned which could lead to a more severe flu season this winter

It's very important that we, as healthcare providers, take every possible step to protect ourselves, our patients and our families and friends. We must also be aware of our responsibility as healthcare professionals to lead by example – to demonstrate that the flu vaccine is safe, effective and the best way to reduce the chances of catching the flu and potentially spreading it.

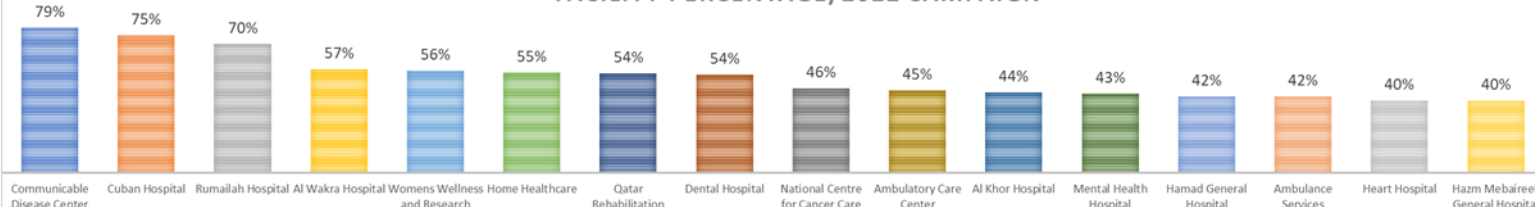
HMC Flu Vaccine compliance percentage



This year HMC flu vaccination staff compliance remained similar to last year's with 43% across all facilities, the lowest compliance rate since 2018. This year flu vaccine hesitancy was probably attributed to people thinking that :

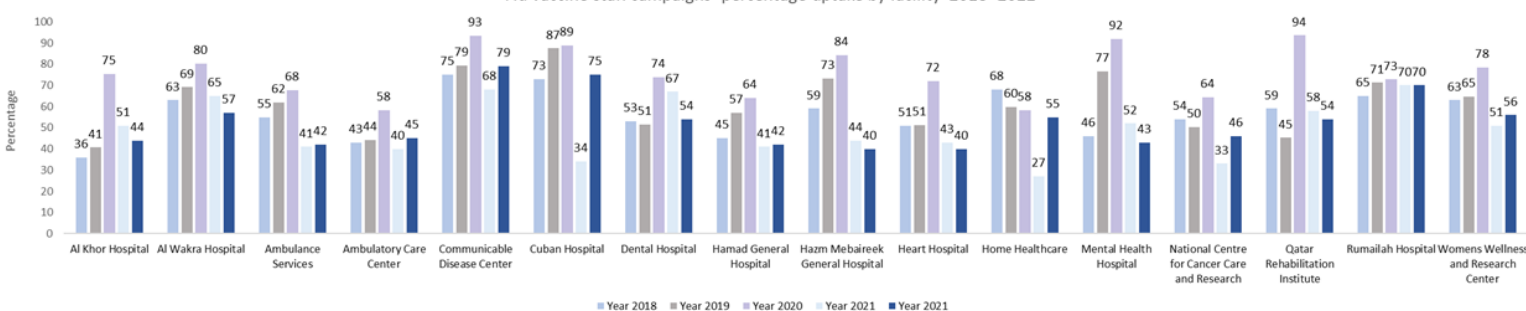
- flu is not a serious illness( not as serious as Covid19)
- flu vaccines don't work very well and are concerned about getting flu from the vaccine
- they can get potential side effects from the vaccine

HMC VACCINATED STAFF  
FACILITY PERCENTAGE/2022 CAMPAIGN

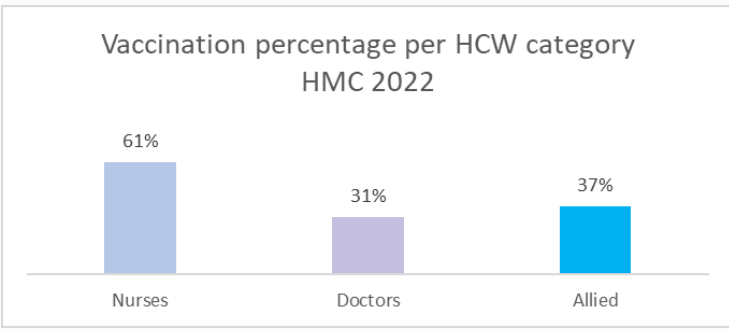


The vaccine uptake in the facilities ranged from 40 to 79%, with staff from CDC having the highest rates of vaccine uptake followed by the Cuban Hospital (75%) and Rumailah Hospital (70%).

Flu vaccine staff campaigns- percentage uptake by facility 2018 -2022



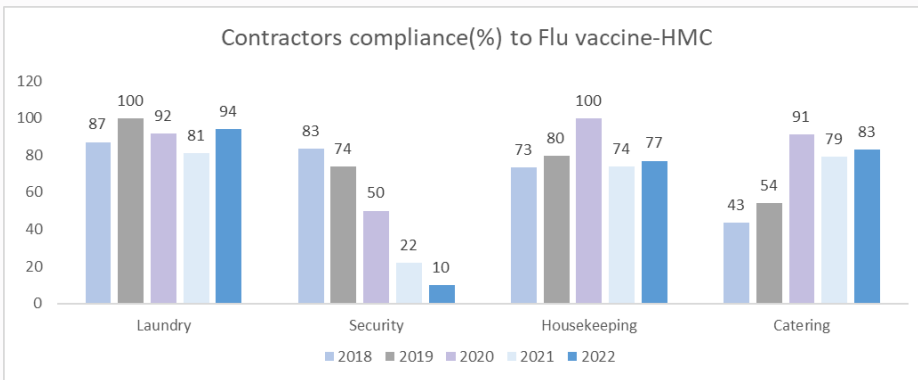
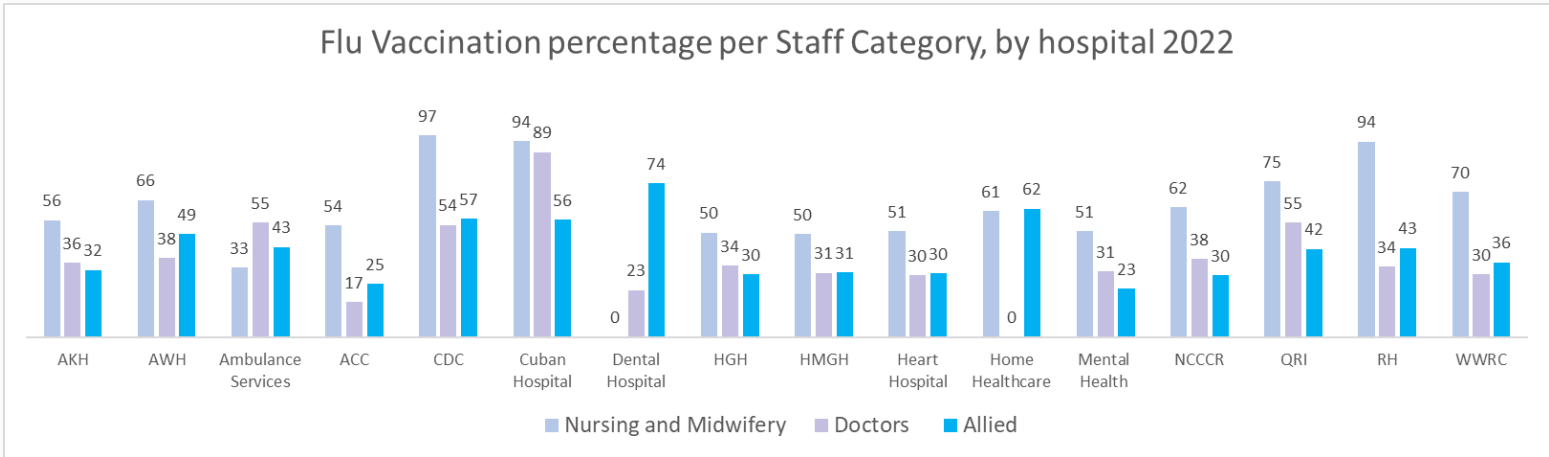
Compared to 2021 campaign, many facilities had almost similar rates of reported vaccine uptake. Exception : CDC, Cuban, ACC, Home healthcare, NCCCR and WWRC who had higher rates than 2021 campaign.



As usual, nurses reported the highest level of uptake (61%) followed by allied HCWs (37%) and doctors (31%).

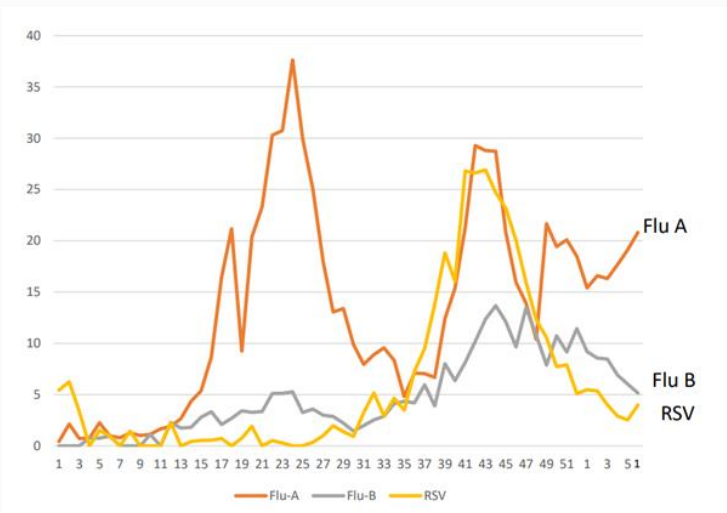
Doctors and allied were more vaccine-hesitant and this can be noticed in the below graph with the very low proportion of vaccinated against influenza, despite published guidelines and recommendations.

Vaccination rates remained very low, particularly in their category across most of HMC facilities.



Among the contractors, Laundry staff led the way with 94% of their staff vaccinated followed by housekeeping staff (77%), catering staff (83%) and security staff (10%)

## FluA and FluB activity -2022 W1 – 2023 W6- ( HMC data courtesy of Dr. Coyle ,virology Lab)



The Flu-A H1N1 wave is clearly still increasing and the parallel rise in respiratory samples received by the virology lab would suggest it is causing significant ILI/SARI in the community.