



Script for Flu Video News Release, October 8, 2004 (For media outlet use)

Suggested Anchor Lead-in:

With the news that half the expected influenza vaccine won't be available this year, the nation's lead public health agency is asking everyone for help.
From Atlanta, Dan Rutz reports:

(narration/Rutz)

[elderly and young children getting shots]

October is prime time for influenza vaccination. This year, it's also an especially challenging time. Because of concerns over vaccine quality, nearly half the expected stocks won't be available and that means there is not enough to meet the expected demand. Dr. Julie Gerberding, director of the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention says we can all help direct existing vaccine to those in greatest need:

[backtime Gerberding Soundbite]

/SOT

(Gerberding)

:14
Dr. Julie L. Gerberding, Director
Centers for Disease Control and Prevention

We're all going to have to work together this flu season to make the vaccine we do have go as far as possible. And that means that healthy people should really forego vaccination this year so that those who need it the most can get it.

(Reveal Graphic)
CDC Influenza Vaccine Priority Groups
Children 6-23 months of age
Adults 65 years of age and older
Nursing home / long-term care residents
Persons with chronic medical conditions
Children 6 months--18 years old on chronic aspirin therapy
Pregnant women
Child care providers / contacts
Health care workers

(narration/Rutz)
CDC recommends influenza vaccine be offered to:
Children 6-to-23 months of age,
Adults aged 65 years and over,
Nursing home and long-term care residents
Persons with chronic medical conditions
Children 6 months to 18 years old, on chronic aspirin therapy
Women who are or will be pregnant during the flu season
Child care providers and household contacts of children under 6 months of age, and
Health care workers with direct patient contact.

/SOT

(Gerberding)

:18
Dr. Julie L. Gerberding, Director
Centers for Disease Control and Prevention

One of the most important things that families can do to prevent flu is to stay home from school or work if they're sick with a respiratory or influenza-like illness. People can also just use common sense, covering their mouths and nose when you sneeze or cough, and keeping your hands clean will help a great deal.

For Further Information:
1-800-232-2522

(narration/Rutz)
For further information on influenza vaccine guidelines, call 1-800-232-2522. With CDC in Atlanta, I'm Dan Rutz.

For more information, visit www.cdc.gov/flu, or call the National Immunization Hotline at (800) 232-2522 (English), (800) 232-0233 (español), or (800) 243-7889 (TTY).

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