

Influenza Vaccine Bulletin #3

September 24, 2004

Influenza Season 2004-05

The National Immunization Program (NIP) of the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) publishes and distributes periodic bulletins to update partners about recent developments related to the production, distribution, and administration of influenza vaccine. All recipients of this bulletin are encouraged to distribute each issue widely to colleagues, members, and constituents.

Influenza Vaccine Supply and Production

2004-2005 Influenza Vaccine Production Update

About 100 million doses of influenza vaccine will be available this year in the United States. Chiron has reported a delay in their vaccine delivery schedule. They expect to distribute about 46-48 million total Fluvirin® doses this year plus 2 million doses to CDC stockpile. While vaccine will begin to be shipped in October, Chiron has stated that there will be no prioritization of shipments to distributors once vaccine is released for shipment. Aventis Pasteur has already shipped some vaccine, reports no delays in vaccine delivery, and expects to deliver about 20 million doses in September and the remaining 32 million doses in October. MedImmune expects to deliver all of its approximate 1.5 million doses of preservative-free intranasal influenza vaccine (FluMist™) in October. More information is available at www.ama-assn.org/ama/pub/article/1826-8817.html.

Orders for Influenza Vaccine

By now, healthcare providers should have placed influenza vaccine orders for administration in the fall of 2004. If orders have not been placed and regular sources of vaccine are booked, healthcare providers are encouraged to get on a waiting list. Last year, sporadic cases of influenza were reported throughout the summer, with widespread activity in several states in November and in most states during December. Because increased demand for vaccine is anticipated, healthcare providers who care for Medicare beneficiaries and others at high risk for complications from influenza must prepare for the upcoming influenza season immediately.

Additional information on sources of vaccine can be found at www.hidanetwork.com/govtrelations/flulinks.asp, a service provided by the Health Industry Distributors Association.

Influenza Vaccine Contracts

For 2004, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) has contracted for a maximum quantity of 8 million doses, up from 4.8 million in 2003. This vaccine may be purchased by state and local immunization programs with VFC, 317 or state or local funds for persons of all ages.

On July 30, 2004, CDC signed a contract with MedImmune Vaccines Inc. for a maximum purchase of 500,000 doses of live, intranasal influenza virus vaccine, FluMist™. The vaccine is supplied in packs containing 10 pre-filled single-dose,

0.5mL sprayers (0.25 per nostril). This vaccine is indicated for healthy persons five through 49 years of age. To maintain potency, the vaccine must be stored continuously at or below -15° C (+5° F). Purchasers intending to store the vaccine in frost-free freezers must also receive and use a FluMist FreezeBox supplied by the manufacturer.

VFC Influenza Vaccine Stockpile

CDC has legislative authority through the Vaccines for Children (VFC) program to purchase influenza vaccine for a national stockpile program for children through 18 years of age. Influenza vaccine is being stockpiled by the CDC to ensure sufficient supply in case of a shortage like the one experienced this past winter. 4.5 million doses will be purchased for the stockpile this year. Stockpiled vaccine may be made available directly to state immunization programs through the VFC program without additional cost to the programs, or manufacturers may “borrow against” the stockpile for non-VFC populations. Influenza vaccine for non-VFC populations will not be free of cost to vaccine providers.

Influenza Vaccine Distribution and Administration

2004 Influenza Vaccination Recommendations of the Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices (ACIP)

Recommendations have been broadened to protect more people from influenza.

- CDC has adopted the following new recommendations beginning with the 2004-05 influenza season.
 - **Children 6 to 23 months** of age should be vaccinated annually against influenza.
 - **Household contacts and out-of-home caregivers of children from birth to 23 months** of age should be vaccinated annually to prevent these contacts from infecting young children with influenza.

Other changes from last year’s recommendations include the composition of the influenza vaccine for the 2004-2005 season and clarification about the use of live, attenuated influenza vaccine in healthcare workers and close contacts of severely immunosuppressed persons. In addition, women who will be pregnant during the influenza season are recommended for vaccination at any stage of pregnancy.

Review the ACIP Recommendations at www.cdc.gov/mmwr/PDF/RR/RR5306.pdf.

Medicare Payment for Influenza Vaccine Purchase and Administration

- Medicare payment rates for influenza vaccine and its administration will be posted by late September by the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) at www.cms.hhs.gov/medlearn/refimmu.asp.

MedImmune Modifies Marketing Strategy for FluMist™

MedImmune selected Henry Schein as its exclusive U.S. distributor of FluMist™ for the upcoming influenza season. MedImmune will oversee all sales and marketing activities with special emphasis on pediatricians and pharmacies. In addition to selling FluMist™, Henry Schein will respond to customer product inquiries, process returns, and promote the product through marketing initiatives to primary care physicians. Distribution of FluMist™ will be handled through MedImmune's distribution center in Louisville, Kentucky, a regulated facility that maintains the FluMist™ cold chain.

MedImmune has significantly reduced the price of FluMist™ for the 2004–2005 flu season.

Prioritization of Influenza Vaccine to High Risk Patients

As the United States influenza vaccine supply is expected to be adequate by October, at present CDC does not envision any need for tiered vaccination recommendations for this upcoming season. Thus, no prioritization of vaccine for those at higher risk of complications from influenza is recommended; however, strong recommendations to immunize those at high risk of complications from influenza continue.

For additional information, visit www.cdc.gov/mmwr/preview/mmwrhtml/mm5337a7.htm.

Influenza Vaccine Communications and Resources

Meeting Summary—Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices (ACIP)

The ACIP met on June 23-24, 2004. Their agenda included discussions about influenza vaccine supply, influenza surveillance (see the update on influenza activity published in the MMWR on July 2, referenced below under Resource Materials), influenza vaccine effectiveness (new data now published in the MMWR on August 13; see reference below), a report on the Influenza Vaccine Summit meeting in April, 2004, the priming dose of influenza vaccine for children less than 9 years of age, vaccination of health care workers, and pandemic influenza preparedness. The meeting minutes will be available at www.cdc.gov/nip/ACIP/minutes.htm later this year.

Resource Materials

- **“Improving Influenza Vaccination Rates in Health Care Workers: Strategies to Increase Protection for Workers and Patients”**
This 21-page monograph, released by the National Foundation for Infectious Diseases (NFID), is an all-inclusive report that includes detailed information about influenza immunization rates among healthcare workers and provides strategies healthcare institutions can use to improve annual influenza immunization rates among employees.

You may download the entire Call to Action at www.nfid.org/publications/hcwmonograph.pdf.

- **“Kids Need Flu Vaccine, Too!”**
 Now available online is the National Foundation for Infectious Diseases (NFID) *Kids Need Flu Vaccine, Too!* practice resources program at www.nfid.org. (Click on the image at the top, right side of the screen.) Features include helpful information and educational materials for conducting pediatric influenza immunization programs.

- Review and print influenza Vaccine Information Statements.
 - Inactivated Influenza Vaccine:
www.cdc.gov/nip/publications/VIS/vis-flu.pdf
 - Live, Intranasal Influenza Vaccine:
www.cdc.gov/nip/publications/VIS/vis-flulive.pdf

- Review recently published Morbidity and Mortality Weekly Reports (MMWRs) related to influenza and influenza vaccine by clicking on the following links.
 - **“Assessment of the Effectiveness of the 2003-04 Influenza Vaccine Among Children and Adults—Colorado, 2003”**
MMWR August 13, 2004; 53(31):707-710
www.cdc.gov/mmwr/PDF/wk/mm5331.pdf

 - **“Update: Influenza Activity—United States and Worldwide, 2003-04 Season, and Composition of the 2004-05 Influenza Vaccine”**
MMWR July 2, 2004; 53(25):547-574
www.cdc.gov/mmwr/PDF/wk/mm5325.pdf

 - **“Prevention and Control of Influenza: Recommendations of the Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices (ACIP)”**
MMWR May 28, 2004; 53 (RR-06):1
www.cdc.gov/mmwr/PDF/RR/RR5306.pdf

- 2004-05 Influenza campaign materials are now available online. **Visit the CDC website to download and print influenza-related patient and provider education materials at** www.cdc.gov/Flu/professionals/patiented.htm.

- Refer to previous bulletins at www.cdc.gov/flu/professionals/flubulletin.htm. Individual subscriptions to the bulletin should be emailed to listserv@listserv.cdc.gov. Type *subscribe flu-serve* in the body of the email.

Upcoming Events

EVENT	LOCATION	2004 DATE(S)
National Adult Immunization Awareness Week (NAIAW) www.cdc.gov/nip/events/naiaw/default.htm	National	September 26- October 2
National Vaccine Advisory Committee (NVAC) www.hhs.gov/nvpo/nvac.html	Washington, DC	October 5-6
Immunization Week in the Americas www.borderhealth.org/binational_initiatives.php?curr=about_us	TBD	October 11-17
Current Issues in Immunization NetConference www.cdc.gov/nip/ed/ciinc/default.htm	Teleconference/ Web conference	October 14, 12pm ET
5th Immunization Registry Conference www.cdc.gov/nip/registry/irc/default.htm	Atlanta, GA	October 18-20
Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices (ACIP) www.cdc.gov/nip/acip	Atlanta, GA	October 27-28
