

INFLUENZA VACCINE SHORTAGE UPDATE #5

North Carolina Division of Public Health
Women's and Children's Health Section
Immunization Branch
November 22, 2004

The North Carolina Division of Public Health is distributing this periodic update to inform vaccine providers of recent developments related to the influenza vaccine shortage. All recipients are encouraged to retain this bulletin for future reference, and to share this information with colleagues.

Calls from Vaccine Distributors

Many physician offices across the state are receiving calls from commercial vaccine distributors asking practices to call their local and state health departments and let them know of their flu vaccine needs. As a result of the CDC's new vaccine allocation plan, all vaccine designated for our state will be funneled through the state health department and allocated to local health departments. Local health departments will then determine the best mechanism to assure that as many high risk individuals as possible are vaccinated in their communities, and will notify private providers and other health care facilities of this plan. If you have already notified your state or local health department of your vaccine needs, it is not necessary to notify them again unless your need has changed.

CDC Guidelines for Large-Scale Influenza Vaccination Clinic Planning, 2004-2005

CDC has developed guidelines to facilitate the most efficient and safe delivery of available flu vaccine to high risk groups. This information contains guidelines for conducting large scale vaccination clinics. To access this information, go to:

<http://www.cdc.gov/flu/professionals/vaccination/pdf/vaxclinicplanning0405.pdf>

Second Doses of Flu Vaccine for Children

Providers should administer second doses of flu vaccine for eligible children on a first come, first serve basis. If vaccine is available when the child presents for the second dose it should be given, but vaccine should not be held in reserve for second doses.

CDC Clarifies Priority Group Designations

CDC guidelines identify women who will be pregnant during flu season as one of the priority groups to receive flu vaccine. CDC has further clarified that this priority group includes any woman who anticipates becoming pregnant in the near future (between October 2004 and March 2005.) CDC has also indicated that household contacts of babies due to be born during flu season may also be vaccinated.

Flu Mist Screening Form

CDC has developed a screening tool for evaluating patient eligibility for nasal flu vaccine. To download a copy of this form, go to www.cdc.gov/flu/professionals/flugallery/shortageflyers.htm

Future Updates on Flu

The Immunization Branch will issue future Influenza Vaccine Shortage Updates on an “as needed” basis when significant new information is available. Providers are encouraged to closely monitor the CDC’s influenza website at www.cdc.gov/flu for new information.

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