



Influenza Vaccine Supply

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PHYSICIANS CARING FOR TEXANS



Current Proposed Legislation

- HB 1059 -- Requires school districts that maintain an Internet website to post on the website: 1) required vaccinations for school entry; 2) recommended vaccinations for public school students (this list must include the influenza vaccine); and 3) health clinics in the district that offer the influenza vaccine.



Current Proposed Legislation

- SB 164 – Calls for a study regarding the feasibility of giving physicians and other health providers priority over retail establishments in the distribution of influenza vaccine.



TMA Survey

- 60 % of physicians – received no vaccine or some, but not enough to meet demand
- 20% -- received all of vaccine ordered
- 73% -- Had to send patients elsewhere for a flu shot



TMA Survey

- 84% -- concerned about ability to receive flu vaccine in a timely manner.
- 51% -- indicated that flu shots should be distributed like children's vaccines



Challenges

- Influenza vaccine cannot be produced so that the entire supply is available at once.
- All four manufacturers are producing and distributing their vaccine on different timetables.



Challenges

- Lack of physician confidence in flu vaccine supply and distribution
- Perception that orders by retail establishments receive preferential treatment



Challenges

- Phased shipments make vaccination efforts difficult, particularly with children who must receive two doses a month apart.



Challenges

- Market forces may result in less vaccine produced if physicians opt not to provide influenza vaccinations.



Texas Resolution

- Called on the AMA to seek appropriate action to make sure an enforceable and efficient distribution system is devised so that physicians and other health care professionals that take care of high-risk populations may receive priority each year in early shipments of the vaccine.



Solutions

- Influenza Vaccine Availability Tracking System
- Working with distributors to allow physicians to secure delivery dates
- Spread orders among the various manufacturers
- Physician education on complexities of flu vaccine supply and distribution



Community Efforts

- TMA, TMA Alliance, and the TMA Foundation, in cooperation with Caring for Children Foundation of Texas, Blue Cross/Blue Shield of Texas, the Governor's Commission on Women, local health care providers and local health departments, are providing immunizations and health screenings to underserved populations throughout Texas through a mobile health clinic, the "Care Van."



Community Efforts

- TMA/TMAA is working with the Texas Department of State Health Services to roll-out statewide public awareness campaigns to improve immunization rates in Texas.
- The Texas Immunization Stakeholders Working Group along with the TMA Council on Health Promotion, in cooperation with Texas Department of State Health Services and the Texas Pediatric Society, will work to improve immunization rates through increased provider and patient education.



- **Florida Medical Association... Call To Action**

The bill that will allow pharmacists to administer flu shots to patients (Senate Bill 2022) has passed the Judiciary Committee in the Senate. Now WE NEED YOUR HELP to ensure this bill does not move further and get heard on the full Senate Floor. The pharmacists are working very hard lobbying this bill and we need physician help too!

Please contact all the members of the Senate Social Responsibility Policy and Calendar Committee and **URGE them NOT to agenda SB 2022 by Bennett on the Senate Calendar**. Tell the Senators that this bill is a scope of practice expansion for pharmacists and bad public policy. This committee is responsible for determining what bills are put on the calendar to be heard on the full Senate floor. If it does NOT get on the calendar, it won't be heard on the floor. With session winding down and most bills being heard on the floor, it is VERY important we contact the members of the Committee ASAP so this bill stops moving and doesn't get heard.

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