Influenza Activity Spotlights
Friday, November 16, 2007
Issue #8

Professional Medical Organizations
Please disseminate widely to all of your members.

1. The ALA's “Flu Clinic Locator” is expanding! Several years ago, the American Lung Association established this national web-based flu clinic locator. The programming and maintenance of the locator has been and continues to be provided to the ALA by Maxim Healthcare Systems.

Although a number of public health departments utilized this locator, others did not because they had their own systems and didn't want to enter their clinic data twice. To address this challenge, CDC, ALA and Maxim joined forces and a survey was conducted to determine which public health jurisdictions had web- or phone-based systems accessible to the general public seeking a flu immunization. Survey results revealed that many other public health departments already had a system in place. Our challenge was to determine a way to share this information through ALA's flu clinic locator.

We addressed this challenge by making a change to the ALA Flu Clinic Locator so that the web page viewed by the public would include the following reference: "Some additional health department clinics may be found here or call your local health department to find out where you can receive your flu vaccination." A spreadsheet appears providing additional public health flu clinic information. We plan to add additional public health departments with the goal that all public health departments eventually are included. For additional information, please call Jim Harrison at (404) 639-8250 or email him at jrh3@cdc.gov.

2. HIDA (Health Industry Distributors Association) has planned several activities to support and coincide with National Influenza Vaccination Week. If you have any activities pertaining to NIVW that you wish to share with the Summit, please email details to LJ Tan or consider speaking to it at the Wednesday, November 28th CDC/Summit Conference Call.

3. The Childhood Influenza Immunization Coalition (CIIC) recently held a face-to-face meeting of its partners. You may read a summary of what partners in CIIC are doing to advance the mission of the Coalition and also a summary of the conclusions from the breakout sessions as to future objectives and directions for CIIC.
4. The Summit’s Home Page has been revamped and it is very user-friendly! Please visit it at www.preventinfluenza.org! The Summit newsletters posted there contain most of the written communications that have been sent via email to members. Go to http://www.preventinfluenza.org/nivs.asp. Members will also be able to find a link to the nominations form on that page for the Summit awards for 2008.

5. The Government Accounting Office has released their full report on influenza vaccine supply and distribution to the House Committee on Oversight and Government Reform. You may also view a one-page summary of the report.

6. There are conflicts for the 2008 Summit meeting proposed dates of April 29th and 30th and May 6th and 7th. One conflicts with the NVAC financing meeting and the VNAA annual meeting and the other conflicts with the NFID’s conference on vaccine research. While we cannot accommodate everyone, we are early enough in the process to try our best to do so! Thus we are now considering having the Summit on the dates of May 13th and 14th. Please contact LJ Tan if there is a conflict for those dates Thanks!