Influenza Activity Spotlights

Monday, October 20, 2008
Issue #8

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

1. In support of the new expanded recommendations, NFID’s Childhood Influenza Immunization Coalition is making more resources available online for families and caregivers, healthcare professionals and the media, including several new videos on its redesigned website.

The Coalition produced multiple short videos that feature an array of Coalition members who answer the frequently asked questions in a visually compelling and meaningful way. They include:

- Short videos tailored to families and caregivers.
- Short videos tailored to health care professionals.
- A 2+ minute feature video providing only the most essential information on influenza and vaccination.

The Coalition encourages organizations and practitioners to link to the videos from their websites, direct patients to the NiIC website and share the videos whenever possible – in medical offices, on their own websites or even at convention booths. Feel free to email CIIC for more information.

2. As of the week ending October 11, sporadic influenza activity was reported in Puerto Rico and seven states (Alaska, California, Connecticut, Florida, Hawaii, New York, and Wyoming). No activity was reported in all other states. More details are available on the CDC’s influenza website.

3. The Healthcare Industry Distributors Association (HIDA) annual Influenza Vaccine Production & Distribution Market Brief, detailing the 2007-2008 season, will be released at the end of this month and will be posted on the section of the Summit’s website describing vaccine production, ordering, and distribution. People can contact Melia Sandler at HIDA for more information. Additional news and resources on influenza vaccine distribution is available in Flu Supply News.

4. The American Lung Association's (ALA) Influenza Vaccination clinic locator, Flu Clinic Locator, went live on September 16. Links to the Locator are posted on the Summit’s home page and many other pages of the Summit’s website. Those offering influenza clinics and who want to be listed on the locator will find a link to do so. As part of being on the locator, clinic providers will need to undergo a brief 10 minute training so they can update the information pertaining to their clinics regularly. The ALA locator also provides a link to clinics that are being offered by public health departments and facilities.

5. Please visit the Summit’s website for more resources on influenza immunization.