Influenza Activity Spotlights
Tuesday, October 5, 2010
Issue #5

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

1. The American Lung Association has released an information sheet that details the launch of its Faces of Influenza campaign for this season featuring their new celebrity spokesperson, Julie Bowen.

2. The Flu Vaccine Finder tool is now live and will assist the public in locating an influenza vaccination clinic. The following website can be used to search for clinics in or near a particular zip code. You may access the Finder at www.flu.gov/whereyoulive/index.html.

   If you would like to list your clinic in the Flu Vaccine Finder, please visit the American Lung Association’s website for details at www.lungusa.org/lung-disease/influenza/flu-vaccine-finder/administrator.html

   Lastly, click the link below if you would like to display the Flu Vaccine Finder Widget on your website. A widget is an application that displays the featured content directly on personalized home pages, blogs, and other sites. After embedding the widget using the code provided, no maintenance is required. Flu.gov and CDC will update the content automatically. www.flu.gov/news/socialmedia/index.html#flulocator.

3. A study by Katherine O’Brien published in the Archives of Pediatrics & Adolescent Medicine found that when women were vaccinated in the second or third trimester of pregnancy, their babies were significantly less likely to get influenza, and the babies’ blood showed evidence of antibodies to influenza.

4. NFID’s National Influenza Press Conference will be held on October 7, 2010 from 10:00 to 11:00 AM (Eastern Time) at the National Press Club in Washington, DC. Scheduled speakers include Dr. Thomas Frieden of the CDC, Dr. William Schaffner from Vanderbilt (who is also moderating), Dr. Judith Palfrey of the American Academy of Pediatrics, and Dr. Stephen Foster of the American Pharmacists Association. The Summit is a collaborating partner for this press conference, as it has been for the past few years. Be prepared for a flurry of influenza press inquiries following the conference.

5. Please take note of the following two upcoming influenza webinars. Feel free to share these announcements with your networks as appropriate.

   Wednesday, October 6; 2:00 p.m. to 3:30 p.m.: EDT Reaching Minority and Vulnerable Populations: Getting Ahead of the Curve to Prevent Seasonal Flu
6. The CDC’s school-located vaccination clinic guidance is posted at www.cdc.gov/flu/school/school_located_vac.htm. Additionally, the CDC has created a sell sheet to show partners what materials are available for this upcoming influenza season.

7. As of September 17, 2010, approximately 89 million doses of influenza vaccine have been distributed by the manufacturers. This would represent the earliest that so many doses have been available. An estimated 165 million doses will be produced for the 2010-2011 influenza season so remember to continue influenza immunization through the entire influenza season, as recommended by the Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices (ACIP), and to vaccinate all persons over 6 months of age without a medical contraindication, also per ACIP recommendations. This graphic displays the distribution of influenza vaccines over the last few years. Notable is the early distribution of vaccine this year.

Here are some specific updates from the manufacturers:

- GSK still plans to distribute more than 30 million doses of FluLaval and Fluarix combined. At this point, all of its FluLaval supply and most of its Fluarix supply has been CBER-released and is being offered to customers.

- MedImmune is on track to manufacture 13.7M doses of seasonal Flumist vaccine with an additional 1.6M potentially available to meet increased demand.

- Merck/CSL will deliver ~7 million doses of the 0.5 mL Pre-Filled Syringe image of Afluria this season. They have met the large majority of their delivery commitments this season and will complete delivery of all vaccine by the end of October.

- Novartis is on track to deliver over 40 million doses of influenza vaccine which is at the high end of the outlook provided to the Summit in May. This represents an increase of approximately 50% compared to last season. Over 90% of the doses will have been delivered by the end of September and 100% of CDC orders that were placed have been delivered CDC’s depots.

- Sanofi Pasteur is on track to supply over 70 million doses of Fluzone vaccine this season and fulfill all customer reservations.
  - Approximately 50% of this supply will be in no preservative presentations.
  - Sanofi has increased Fluzone No Preservative: Pediatric Dose (0.25mL) production and doses are still available for reservation.
  - Additionally, Fluzone High-Dose vaccine, the multidose vials and adult no preservative syringe presentations of Fluzone vaccine are still available to all customers for reservation.
  - Sanofi has shipped over 50% of its doses to date and has made every reasonable effort to distribute equitably across all customers.
  - Sanofi intends that every customer who reserved Fluzone vaccine will have received 70% or more of their reservation by the end of October, and it anticipates delivering all 70+ million doses reserved by the middle of November.
  - Because patients over 65 years of age are most vulnerable to influenza, and are historically first in line to be vaccinated, sanofi expects all reservations of Fluzone High-Dose vaccine to be fully shipped by early October, and is accepting additional reservations for immediate delivery.
8. The Summit’s Influenza Vaccine Availability Tracking System (IVATS) spreadsheet continues to be updated weekly and now has 12 distributors listed; most all of them have vaccine in stock. Summit members can access the spreadsheet by going to www.preventinfluenza.org/ivats/

9. The Immunization Action Coalition (IAC) has created a handout that lists all influenza vaccine products for the 2010-11 vaccination season. In addition, IAC has created a handout that helps determine which children need 2 doses of vaccine this vaccination season.

10. Orders can still be submitted for the Summit’s influenza and pneumococcal pocket guides. Please go to the Summit’s webpage at www.preventinfluenza.org/nivs.asp and orders can be placed by going to the link (image of the influenza pocket guide) in the left-hand bar; or go directly to www.immunize.org/pocketguides.

11. As requested on a previous call, here is the pregnancy “Dear Colleague” letter on DHHS letterhead.

12. On September 27, 2010, “Dear Abby” published a letter from Deborah Wexler of the Immunization Coalition on the new universal recommendation, the abundance of vaccine, and the need to get vaccinated through the season.

13. On September 28, 2010, Dr. Tony Fauci announced that as many as 41% of the U.S. population may not have immunity against influenza; you can read the USA Today coverage here. What is of interest is the slant that H1N1 influenza is no longer of concern as opposed to the other possible direction, which is that there are still 49% of the US population still vulnerable and that this season’s vaccine includes the 2009 H1N1 strain.

14. The latest Cochrane review on influenza can be found here. This one looks at the best evidence-based interventions to increase influenza immunizations in the elderly.