Influenza Activity Spotlights
Wednesday, November 24, 2010
Issue #10

Please disseminate widely to all of your members.

Professional Medical Organizations

1. In the interest of making it as easy as possible for the public to find and share information about
this season's influenza vaccine, the American Academy of Pediatrics (AAP) has gathered
 together some resources on the home pages of both of its public websites. A featured
 item appears on www.aap.org, and a Hot Topic on www.healthychildren.org. AAP has included
 information on thimerosal for those who are interested. Please feel free to direct the public to
 these items. For AAP members, the AAP has prepared materials for use in addressing any
 misinformation that may receive attention during this flu season.

2. Updates from CDC:
   a. CDC has released its Influenza Division Weekly Influenza Surveillance Report for week
      46 (the week ending November 19, 2010) and the November 19, 2010 Key Points.
   b. 2010-11 Influenza Season Key Points (updated 11/23/10).
   c. National Influenza Vaccination Week (December 5-11)
      Be sure to check the NIVW website often between now and NIVW for the latest
      resources posted in support of efforts for daily events, which includes a letter from Dr.
      Anne Schuchat highlighting the week’s events, a new matte article highlighting
      influenza’s increased risk to American Indians and Alaskan Natives, and a “Have You
      Heard” report on a human case of avian influenza A (H5N1) in Hong Kong.

3. The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention's (CDC's) guidance on antiviral treatment for
influenza focuses mainly on treating patients who are seriously ill or at risk for complications from
influenza, but the CDC is not telling clinicians to refrain from using the drugs in uncomplicated
cases. More complete information can be found here and some slides that were used on a recent
conference call can be found here.

4. Giving inactivated influenza vaccine to young children appears to be effective at preventing
influenza, even in infants aged younger than 2 years who are the most vulnerable to infection. An
abstract of the article published online in Lancet Infectious Diseases can be found here and a
news story can be found here.

5. The World Health Organization (WHO) said on Friday that a new confirmed human case of H5N1
infection was reported in Hong Kong, China on November 17. The case, a 59-year-old female,
had onset of symptoms on November 2, and was hospitalized on November 14. A WHO
spokesman said the infected woman had no history of contact with live birds in the days before
showing symptoms, but she had traveled to Shanghai, Nanjing and Hangzhou before being
hospitalized, and therefore close contacts to her are under medical surveillance, with no one
showing symptoms to date. WHO believes it might be a sporadic case of human influenza A (H5N1) infection without further spread. For the story, go here.