



NATIONAL INFLUENZA VACCINE SUMMIT NEWSLETTER

Influenza Activity Spotlights

Wednesday, April 16, 2008

Issue #16

Professional Medical Organizations

Please disseminate widely to all of your members.

1. The CDC has scheduled a Media Availability Teleconference on Thursday, April 17 at 12:00 Noon (ESDT) featuring Drs. Jeanne Santoli and Dan Jernigan. Dr. Santoli will wrap up this year's season and talk about the amount of vaccine that was available and Dr. Jernigan will talk about an [article](#) that will be released in the April 18 issue of *MMWR* on the effectiveness of the 2007-08 influenza vaccine. This effectiveness study was done at the Marshfield Clinic and will present the data collected on the effectiveness of the vaccine against this year's circulating strains.
2. A discussion was held during the 2007 Summit about how a "Best Practices" document for improving healthcare worker influenza immunization in medical facilities would be useful. This document should provide a spectrum of the different ways a facility could go about improving their healthcare worker influenza immunization rates. In response, NFID has worked with partners of the Summit (with unrestricted educational funding from CSL Biotherapies) to create such a document. It is now available on the [NFID website](#).
3. The National Influenza Vaccine Summit would like to hear from organizations—including hospitals, nursing homes, health plans, medical offices, health departments, and other health settings—about strategies that have worked to increase influenza vaccination coverage of their staff. No activity is too small or too common to report. Please go to www.preventinfluenza.org/success and let the Summit know about your activities. And, thank you for all your continuing efforts to protect your patients from the annual threat of influenza.
4. The Association of State and Territorial Health Officials (ASTHO) has released a draft version of "At-Risk Populations and Pandemic Influenza: Planning Guidance for State, Territorial, Tribal, and Local Health Departments" for public comment. Under a cooperative agreement with the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), ASTHO was asked to develop model guidance on the protection of at-risk populations in an influenza pandemic. Over the past several months, ASTHO performed an extensive review of relevant publications and plans, assembled subject matter expert work groups, and convened public and stakeholder engagement meetings to provide key input during the drafting process. This important project will result in the publication of a key guidance document to assist public health officials in their pandemic influenza planning efforts. Input from multiple stakeholders is integral to providing useful guidance. ASTHO hopes to hear from as many people as possible during this period in order to fully understand what will enhance planning activities for at-risk populations. **The comment period will be open through May 15, 2008.** Comments may be submitted via email (the preferred method), fax or regular mail (see contact info below). Please note that any information you submit may be made public.

The document can be found under "At-Risk Populations Project" at www.astho.org and at www.cidrap.umn.edu.

Instructions for submitting comments:

Email: arpp@astho.org

Phone: 571-527-3174

Fax: 571-527-3189

Regular mail: ASTHO, 2231 Crystal Drive, Suite 450, Arlington, VA 22202. ATTN: Caroline Barnhill - ARPP

5. The General Assembly of the House of Representatives, Commonwealth of Kentucky, sent a [letter](#) commending the ACIP on their recent vote to extend the recommendation for influenza vaccination to children 6 months-18 years.
6. The Infectious Diseases Society of America (IDSA) has invited partners in the National Influenza Vaccine Summit to their meeting, "Seasonal and Pandemic Influenza 2008" to be held at the Marriott Crystal Gateway Hotel in Arlington, Virginia on May 18-20. The program's plenary sessions will cover timely topics, including the status of H5N1 influenza and pandemic preparedness, seasonal influenza and the threat of resistance, and new insights on changing animal ecology. Additionally, there will be sessions detailing the current status of vaccine development, as well as global vaccine dissemination strategies. Visit the [IDSA website](#) to obtain the current agenda, review poster abstract submission guidelines, view deadlines, and learn how colleagues may petition to attend. There is no fee associated with this conference. However, due to the size and scope of the meeting, IDSA and the program committee have deemed it necessary to limit the number of participants. Interested Summit partners are strongly encouraged to register early, as space is on a first-come, first-served basis.
7. Two years ago, the Department of Defense (DoD) implemented a mandatory requirement for all military HCWs to receive influenza immunization. Now the DoD have moved the ball farther - [requiring vaccination](#) for all civilian HCWs who work under contract with DoD.
8. The American Academy of Pediatrics and the Childhood Influenza Immunization Coalition are pleased to [announce](#) a new online, interactive "Influenza Vaccine Algorithm" to help healthcare professionals determine the number and timing of vaccine doses needed to protect patients 6 months to 9 years of age. The algorithm is available on the [Coalition website](#).

This algorithm was created by the American Academy of Pediatrics to help ensure pediatric patients are fully vaccinated against influenza each season. The Coalition is happy to work with member groups to develop and distribute materials in support of our mission to protect infants, children and adolescents from influenza by communicating with "one strong voice" the need to make influenza immunization a national health priority. Please contact CIIC@nfid.org for questions or assistance.