

Influenza Vaccine Bulletin #6

August 10, 2001

The National Immunization Program (NIP) of the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) is publishing and distributing periodic bulletins to update partners about recent developments related to the production, distribution and administration of influenza vaccine for the 2001-2002 influenza season. All recipients of this bulletin are encouraged to distribute each issue widely to colleagues, members and constituents.

Influenza Vaccine Supply and Production

Vaccine manufacturers have provided CDC with updated projections and now expect that 79.1 million doses of influenza vaccine will be distributed this season. Some delays in distribution are still anticipated.

- Projected distribution of influenza vaccine for 2001, based on aggregate manufacturers' estimates as of August 6, is 79.1 million doses. By the end of October, 47.8 million doses should be available for delivery and 31.3 million doses are projected to be available in November and December. Delays this year are not expected to be as great as those experienced last season. Nevertheless, officials at FDA and CDC stress that these projections from manufacturers could change as the season progresses.

Influenza Vaccine Distribution and Administration

CDC is continuing to work with partners to promote the administration of influenza vaccine that is available early to persons at greatest risk of complications from influenza.

- On July 20, 2001, CDC met with influenza mass vaccinators to discuss the supplemental ACIP recommendations and the impact of these recommendations on mass vaccinators' operations. Representatives from approximately fifteen different organizations attended the all-day session.
- CDC and the AMA are conducting a brief survey of practitioners to help determine the current status of influenza vaccine orders for the upcoming season. Results of the survey should be available later this month. The AMA and CDC are co-sponsoring a second meeting of partners on August 22 in Chicago where updated information on issues related to this year's influenza season will be discussed.
- Providers who have been unable to order influenza vaccine may wish to contact their state influenza vaccine supply representative for possible assistance. A list of state influenza vaccine supply contacts has been added to the CDC influenza website www.cdc.gov/nip/flu.

Influenza Vaccine Communications

CDC is working with partners to inform and educate the public about the importance of influenza vaccine to those at highest risk of complications from influenza.

- On August 1, CDC participated in a press conference sponsored by the National Partnership for Immunization in Washington, DC to announce the establishment of August as National Immunization Awareness Month. At the conference, CDC spoke about the importance of influenza vaccine for people at high risk of complications from influenza.
- CDC has begun production of print materials (posters, flyers) and media materials (audio news releases, video news releases, public service announcements, feature articles and radio spots) on influenza.
- Revised guidelines for mass influenza vaccination campaigns and an updated self-screening form to help individuals determine if they need an influenza vaccination are being distributed with this bulletin. In addition, these documents will be posted on the CDC influenza website www.cdc.gov/nip/flu.