



## NATIONAL INFLUENZA VACCINE SUMMIT NEWSLETTER

# Influenza Activity Spotlights

Monday, October 6, 2008

Issue #6

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### Professional Medical Organizations

Please disseminate widely to all of your members.

1. On Monday, October 6, the National Women's Health Resource Center (NWHRC) and the Association of Women's Health, Obstetric and Neonatal Nurses (AWHONN) will launch a brand new program: "Flu-Free and A Mom-to-Be: Protect Yourself, Protect Your Baby, Get a Flu Shot!" The campaign is being supported by an educational grant from CSL Biotherapies and is designed to educate women who are pregnant, women who are planning to conceive, or new moms about the importance of getting vaccinated against influenza. Click [here](#) for more information on the program and on an associated webcast scheduled for Monday, October 6, 2008 at 2:00 pm EDT.
2. The latest issue of *Pediatrics* has an [article](#) on influenza infection and co-infection with MRSA in children. The CDC expects to have talking points available soon.
3. The October 6 issue of American Medical News, which is distributed to more than 350,000 physicians, will have a 4-color feature on the production and distribution of influenza vaccine. This article will help educate physicians on the complex nature of vaccine production and distribution, in [text](#) and with a [timeline](#). Unfortunately, these links from the AMNews website do not do justice to the actual [hard-copy article](#).
4. On the October 1 Summit conference call, Dr. Jeanne Santoli provided an update on influenza vaccine supply. As of September 26, 66 million doses of influenza vaccine have been distributed in the United States. With respect to federally-purchased vaccine, which includes VFC vaccine, vaccine purchased via the Section 317 program, and vaccine purchased through states' purchasing programs, 2/3 of all contracted doses are at McKesson for distribution. The remaining 1/3 of doses will be delivered by the fourth week of October. Grantees will be given another opportunity to purchase additional vaccine.
5. The Food and Drug Administration has released a [new consumer brochure](#) on the influenza vaccines available this season.
6. Pursuant to the discussion on the [NEJM paper](#) on maternal influenza immunization, CDC has developed the following talking points for the Summit's use:

### ISSUES FOR CONSIDERATION

- Pregnant women are at high risk of influenza-related complications, including complications that may require hospitalization.
- The current recommendation to administer influenza vaccine to women who are pregnant during influenza season is made in order to prevent influenza in this high risk group (to protect the women themselves).
- The study "Effectiveness of Maternal Influenza Immunization in Mothers and Infants" published in the *NEJM* found greater clinical protection from influenza not only to the vaccinated mothers but

also in the infants born to influenza-vaccinated mothers compared to infants born to unvaccinated mothers.

- This study was conducted during 2004-05 in Bangladesh and followed infants and their mothers to 24 weeks after delivery.
  - Additional studies on the potential benefits to infants of vaccinating mothers against influenza are needed to draw definitive conclusions on this issue.
  - Currently, infants younger than 6 months of age are not approved to receive influenza vaccination, but are the pediatric age group at greatest risk of serious complications, including hospitalization.
  - CDC and the ACIP recommend that all caregivers and close contacts of children younger than 6 months get an annual influenza vaccination in order to protect these high-risk infants.
  - This study provides additional scientific support for the recommendation to vaccinate pregnant women for their own protection and new data on the benefits of vaccination to their infants.
  - More information on how caregivers of children younger than 6 months can protect against the flu is available at <http://www.cdc.gov/flu/protect/infantcare.htm>.
7. The influenza immunization coverage data from the past season have recently been published in the [MMWR](#). While the data indicate improvement in immunization rates in all adult population groups, it is still not at the level of the 2003-2004 season, and far below the Healthy People 2010 goal of 60% for persons aged 18–64 years with high-risk conditions and 90% for persons aged 65 years and older.
  8. The CDC and Families Fighting Flu video vignette "Why Flu Vaccination Matters" is posted on YouTube at the following URL: <http://www.youtube.com/user/cdcflu>. Links have also been established on the Influenza [Summit's website](#) and on the [CDC's influenza website](#). To obtain a free DVD with both an unabridged as well as a one-minute abridged version, please contact Adele Viskin at the Academy for Educational Development via [email](#) or at (202) 884-8526.
  9. 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. [Contact Melia Sandler](#) for more information. Please also visit [www.FluSupplyNews.com](http://www.FluSupplyNews.com) for additional news and resources on influenza vaccine distribution.
  10. On September 24, Families Fighting Flu (FFF) launched the 2008 campaign for "Say Boo to the Flu." This campaign was first started in 2007 with great success. FFF will be staging the campaign at 12 different cities in the United States, beginning in Atlanta. Additionally, on the same day, FFF also re-launched a new and [expanded website](#). Please go to [www.familiesfightingflu.org](http://www.familiesfightingflu.org) to check it out! Please [contact Laura Scott](#) of FFF for more information.
  11. The American Lung Association's [Flu Clinic Locator](#) went live on September 16. Those offering influenza clinics and wanting to be listed on the locator will find a link to do so. As part of being on the locator, clinic providers need to undergo a brief 10 minute training so that they can regularly update the information pertaining to their clinics. The ALA locator also provides a link to clinics that are being offered by public health departments and facilities.
  12. For those seeking to purchase influenza vaccine, please visit the Summit's Influenza Vaccine Availability Tracking System at <http://www.preventinfluenza.org/ivats>.
  13. To volunteer for the various working groups that have formed for this upcoming season, please email [Jim Harrison](#) and [L.J. Tan](#). The working groups are: (1) Communications/Consumer WG; (2) Health Care Provider WG; (3) Payment Working Group; (4) Occupational Health WG.