



NATIONAL INFLUENZA VACCINE SUMMIT NEWSLETTER

Influenza Activity Spotlights

Monday, October 29, 2007

Issue #5

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

1. Last week, there was a [report](#) from Canada about a potential strain mismatch this influenza season. In checking with Tony Fiore at the CDC about this, he feels the early surveillance data are not complete enough to be able to make that prediction; however, the CDC already has messages in place in the event that this turns out to be true. Should this be true, the CDC will be quick to share that messaging with the Summit.

Along the same lines, the following quotes are taken from the USEUCOM [report](#):

“By mid-January 2007, about 91% of AD in Europe had been vaccinated against influenza. Using the endpoint of lab-confirmed flu, Vaccine Effectiveness was estimated to be 52% this season. While this is below the 70-90% expected when there is a good match between the vaccine and circulating strains, it still offers important protection against infection as well as disease severity. . . . Sequencing analyses at AFIOH revealed a number of mutations among A/H3N2 specimens from EUCOM, which would point to some diversity from the A/H3N2 2006-7 vaccine strain, and may help explain in part the lower than expected VE. The A/H1N1 specimens from EUCOM that were analyzed did show good genetic similarity with the A/H1N1 2006-7 vaccine strain. Regarding influenza B specimens from EUCOM, only two were sequenced. However, both were characterized as belonging to the B/Yamagata lineage, which differs from the B/Malaysia strain in the 2006-7 vaccine that is of B/Victoria lineage.”

Also, the website, www.chppmeur.healthcare.hqusareur.army.mil/Default.aspx?tabid=89 is worth following.

2. CSL Biotherapies has [announced](#) that all 2M doses of Afluria will be distributed by October 20.
3. Note that [ASD Healthcare](#) and [FFF Enterprises](#) have both announced vaccine return policies. It would appear that these are opportunities that we should utilize to improve and increase our protection of people against influenza!
4. The Summit/CDC communications call is back on schedule for Wednesday (after skipping a week due to the ACIP meeting). On the agenda is Tony Fiore from the CDC to give us an

update on the ACIP meeting and GSK will provide a presentation on their current unbranded messaging campaign (**EMBARGOED UNTIL November 1**). The call-in information is:

Toll Free: 866-421-9575; Participant Passcode: 8222501

5. Lastly, the [NIH's speaking points](#) on Dr. Simonsen's paper in *Lancet Infectious Diseases* are now included in this newsletter. This was promised after the Summit call where Dr. Simonsen presented her paper. Also from Dr. Simonsen is a link to a recent [CIDRAP piece](#) discussing both her paper and Dr. Kristin Nichol's *NEJM* paper together. She thinks the author Robert Roos does a good job at summarizing the two papers and the two commentaries in *Lancet* and *NEJM*.