



NATIONAL INFLUENZA VACCINE SUMMIT NEWSLETTER

Influenza Activity Spotlights

Friday, November 30, 2007

Issue #9

Professional Medical Organizations

Please disseminate widely to all of your members.

1. While the official end of National Influenza Vaccination Week (NIVW) is December 2, the National Influenza Vaccine Summit would like to thank the many invaluable partners that worked to increase influenza immunization rates this week and hope that efforts will continue into the next few months. An amazing amount of energy, creativity, commitment, and hard work have been demonstrated by countless individuals and organizations, including:
 - a. State and local public health officials;
 - b. Private healthcare providers;
 - c. Professional societies;
 - d. Community immunization providers;
 - e. Influenza vaccine manufacturers and distributors; and
 - f. Numerous federal organizations, agencies and departments.

Together, we have made another important step toward promoting a longer vaccination season, enabling us to protect more children, adolescents, and adults against influenza. We look forward to continuing this tradition in 2008 with the third annual National Influenza Vaccination Week. It is our hope that next year's effort will have an even greater impact, and that we will be able to work even more closely with the same thoughtful and dedicated group of partners in planning and implementing NIVW activities. The NIVW website can be found at <http://www.cdc.gov/flu/nivw>. In addition, a listing of [NIVW resources](#) gives many links to help providers extend influenza vaccination efforts in to January and beyond.

2. On December 6, noon EST, the National Influenza Vaccine Summit and CDC will co-host a conference call about late season influenza vaccination for healthcare providers and partner constituents. Entitled "Breaking from your Comfort Zone - Extending the Influenza Vaccination Season," the call will explain why it is important to extend the influenza vaccination season through March. The call will also provide up-to-the minute information about influenza activity and the status of influenza vaccine supply. More details about the call will be posted soon on the [CDC Vaccine Web Site](#) and through other partner communication channels
3. Please bookmark the [CDC Flu Activity and Surveillance website](#) for weekly reports with U.S. influenza surveillance data. This site will be kept updated throughout the influenza

season. The influenza activity map has a new look that will allow a dynamic view of the season's progression of influenza activity and will facilitate making black and white photocopies.

4. In recognition of National Influenza Vaccination Week, [President George W. Bush](#) is urging all Americans to get vaccinated against influenza, especially those at greater risk for illness.
5. CDC Director [Dr. Julie Gerberding](#) is urging healthcare professionals across the country to get vaccinated during this flu season -- to protect themselves, their patients, and their loved ones.
6. As of November 30, 108 million doses of influenza vaccine have been distributed by manufacturers and major distributors — more doses than had ever previously been distributed in the U.S. in a single season. CDC officials believe that most influenza vaccine providers currently have supplies sufficient for meeting demand. As many as 132 million total doses of vaccine could be produced by the end of the 2007-2008 influenza season, according to manufacturers. This record amount would be about 12 million more doses than were produced during the 2006-2007 season. Please continue to utilize this opportunity to protect as many people as possible! Remember that the Summit provides an award for the best “expanding the season” campaign!
7. The most recent [adult immunization schedule](#) has been published in the *Annals of Internal Medicine*. Significantly, there is an editorial by [Greg Poland and Bill Schaffner](#) discussing adult immunization as a patient safety and quality of care issue.
8. For those of you who may have missed any of the flurry of announcements from NIVW, you may read the [November 26 announcement](#) of the start of NIVW and the [declaration](#) of that Tuesday to focus on pediatric influenza immunization.
9. In order to facilitate the participation of as many Summit partners as possible, we are now contemplating new dates for the Summit 2008 meeting as detailed in the previous [Summit update](#). **At this time, we are considering a small change to the traditional Summit meeting schedule; starting at noon on Monday May 12 and ending at 4 PM on Tuesday May 13.** Since the meeting is in Chicago, we anticipate that a 4 PM end time would still allow most of you to catch flights home that evening.
10. You may also read some of the many [media reports](#) on influenza that occurred during NIVW.
11. The following media report may be of interest to many Summit members: “[U.S. funds influenza vaccine development](#).”
12. **Congratulations to Jon Temte** for the publication of his wonderful response to a biased [anti-influenza vaccine article](#). Dr. Temte was responding to the statement made that an influenza shot contains a "hefty and dangerous dose of mercury."

13. The following report entitled “[Handwashing more useful than drugs in virus control](#),” published recently in the *British Medical Journal*, could potentially be interpreted to mean that vaccination is not useful. Something to keep in mind...
14. **Mark your calendars!** There will be a CDC/Summit Communications conference call on Wednesday, December 5 at 3 PM Eastern time. An agenda and call in information will follow.