



NATIONAL INFLUENZA VACCINE SUMMIT NEWSLETTER

Influenza Activity Spotlights

Thursday, August 16, 2007

Issue 1

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

The influenza season is drawing near and there are several developments to inform all of you about!

1. The Summit's website has been updated and will continue to be updated to reflect the latest information on influenza immunization. Please visit, and direct your membership/partners to visit the Summit web site at : <http://www.preventinfluenza.org>
2. As of today, all manufacturers report being on or ahead of schedule to deliver the number of doses of vaccine estimated at the 2007 Summit meeting. MedImmune is still awaiting FDA approval of their compliance to GMP and the new indication for FluMist.
3. Novartis Vaccines has issued a [press release](#) that they have started shipping Fluvirin on August 16th, 2007. The press release states that Novartis will ship about 7 million doses by the end of August, another 13 million doses by the end of September, and 20 million doses by the end of October for a total production of 40 million doses.
4. The Health Industry Distributors Association has released its latest [Market Brief](#) on influenza vaccine supply and distribution for the previous season.
5. The National Influenza Vaccine Summit will be collaborating with the National Foundation for Infectious Diseases to create a package to improve health care worker immunization rates. This package will update and follow up on the initial [Call-To-Action](#) produced by the NFID two years ago. A centerpiece will be a "Best Practices" document that will detail 3-5 different model programs ranging in aggressiveness. By doing so, it allows different facilities to choose which model they would want to pursue based upon their individual comfort levels. This document is the direct result of ideas emanating from the 2007 Summit meeting.
6. The Summit has collaborated with The Joint Commission (TJC), OSHA, and the CDC to co-host a webinar targeted at medical facilities to encourage support of initiatives to improve healthcare worker immunization rates. This webinar will be held from 12:30 – 2:00 PM Eastern on September 6th. L.J Tan will be representing the Summit and

presenting on the Summit and its support of improved HCW rates. He will also detail the collaboration with the NFID.

7. The American Lung's Association Flu Clinic Locator will once again serve as a national collecting point for anyone seeking to locate influenza vaccination in their locality. The ALA's locator will be relaunched soon and available at: <http://www.flucliniclocator.org> This upcoming season, it is likely that there will be links from this site to the influenza vaccination locators of public health clinics. Those public health clinics without their own locator are ***strongly encouraged to participate in the ALA's***. Every season, the ALA's locator moves one step closer to being the one stop for anyone seeking influenza immunization.
8. The Summit's Influenza Vaccine Availability Tracking System (IVATS) was developed to address the difficulty health care providers may experience when trying to determine which wholesale distributors or manufacturers have influenza vaccine in stock for sale or on order. It is intended for use by: (1) health care providers seeking vaccine; and (2) influenza vaccine wholesale distributors or manufacturers with vaccine in stock for sale and/or on order. IVATS is currently being updated and should be live next week. At that time, wholesale distributors and manufacturers who distribute influenza vaccine will have the opportunity to list their vaccine availability online. IVATS is online at: <http://www.ama-assn.org/ama/pub/category/16919.html> but again, is being updated.
9. As a result of activity from the Summit meeting this year, an informal educational task force on legislative issues has formed. This Task Force is chaired by Andrew Van Ostrand from HIDA. Anyone interested in participating should contact Andrew at vanostrand@hida.org The Task Force is currently in the process of creating some educational materials that can be used to educate policy makers on the complexities of influenza vaccine production, supply, and distribution.
10. Two Summit partners have recently released policy statements with respect to influenza immunization. The American Pharmacists Association has the following new policy:

[Pharmacy Personnel Immunization Rates](#)

1. APhA supports efforts to increase immunization rates of healthcare professionals, for the purposes of protecting patients, and urges all pharmacy personnel to receive all immunizations recommended by the Centers for Disease Control (CDC) for healthcare workers.
2. APhA encourages employers to provide necessary immunizations to all pharmacy personnel.
3. APhA encourages federal, state, and local public health officials to recognize pharmacists as first responders (like physicians, nurses, police, etc) and prioritize pharmacists to receive medications and immunizations.

The American College of Physicians has released a new [policy brief](#) endorsing healthcare worker immunization.

11. Every year the Immunization Action Coalition produces the Influenza Vaccination Pocket Guide in partnership with the Summit. This year's edition is about to go to press.

Please contact Diane Peterson at the Immunization Action Coalition (diane@immunize.org) if you would like to order copies for your constituents – they are FREE.