



## NATIONAL INFLUENZA VACCINE SUMMIT NEWSLETTER

# Influenza Activity Spotlights

Friday, September 12, 2008

Issue #3

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### Professional Medical Organizations

Please disseminate widely to all of your members.

1. CSL Biotherapies began shipments of Afluria® on September 4. Thus all vaccine manufacturers are now delivering vaccine to distributors and providers. Afluria® is indicated for the active immunization of persons age 18 years and older against influenza disease caused by influenza virus subtypes A and type B present in the vaccine. CSL anticipates delivery of more than six million doses of Afluria influenza vaccine in the U.S. For more information on FDA approval, visit: <http://www.fda.gov/cber/flu/flu2008.htm>.
2. The Vaccine Education Center of the Children's Hospital of Philadelphia has released its new version of the sheet, "[Influenza: What you should know](#)," available in English and Spanish. Two 50-sheet pads are available free-of-charge from the Vaccine Education Center or larger quantities can be purchased at a nominal charge by completing the [VEC order form](#).
3. On September 8, the Associated Press released a story entitled "[More flu vaccine aimed at key flu spreaders: Kids](#)." This story will be discussed on the September 17 Summit Conference Call. The story clearly latches on to the concept of the "indirect" benefits of vaccinating children, something that was discussed in great detail at the June 2008 ACIP meeting but acknowledged was still lacking in data. The expanded recommendation to routinely vaccinate all persons through 18 years was adopted by the ACIP based entirely on the direct impact it would have on antibiotic use, outpatient visits, school absenteeism, and parental time off work.
4. An excellent [fact sheet](#), discussing ingredients in childhood vaccines, has been developed by the Pharmaceutical Research and Manufacturers of America (PhRMA). Originally prepared for the "Green our Vaccines" march on Washington last spring, this fact sheet also addresses the false claims that vaccines contain harmful toxins.
5. Reminder: ACIP recommends that influenza vaccination should begin as soon as vaccine is available and continue through the end of the influenza season. With vaccine already in the hands of many providers, it is essential that vaccination begin to take advantage of the early portion of the season. To this end, there are many locations across the country that are beginning to schedule influenza clinics. There is no evidence that immunity will wane before the end of the influenza season if vaccination occurs as early as August.
6. National Influenza Vaccination Week (NIVW) is December 8 through 14, 2008. This is the third year that the NIVW campaign will be conducted to improve post-Thanksgiving influenza immunization rates. Again, it is important that this is about immunizing more vulnerable people; it is NOT about having more time to immunize the same patient base.

7. To volunteer for the various Summit Working Groups that have formed for this upcoming season, please email [Jim Harrison](#) and [L.J Tan](#). The Working Groups are: (1) Communications/Consumer; (2) Health Care Provider; (3) Payment; (4) and Occupational Health.
8. The National Influenza Vaccine Summit website has evolved into a national leading resource for all things related to influenza. Please share this important resource with your colleagues: [www.preventinfluenza.org](http://www.preventinfluenza.org).