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TO: Healthcare Providers, Hospitals, Long-Term Care Facilities, Local Health Departments and Pharmacies**FROM:** NYSDOH Bureau of Immunization

**HEALTH ADVISORY: RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE ADVISORY COMMITTEE
ON IMMUNIZATION PRACTICES FOR INFLUENZA PREVENTION, 2010-2011**
**Please distribute to the Infection Control Department, Medical Director, Director of
Nursing, Emergency Department, Employee Health, and all patient care areas**

The New York State Department of Health (NYSDOH) is providing this advisory on current recommendations regarding the prevention and treatment of influenza to assist public and private health care providers in preparing for the 2010-2011 influenza season.

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) published the yearly recommendations of the Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices (ACIP) on July 29, 2010: *Prevention and Control of Influenza with Vaccines: Recommendations of the Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices*. MMWR 2010; July 29, 2010 59[2-62].

The 2010-2011 influenza vaccine virus strains contained in both TIV and LAIV are: A/California/7/2009 (H1N1)-like (the same strain as was used for 2009 H1N1 monovalent vaccines), A/Perth/16/2009 (H3N2)-like, and B/Brisbane/60/2008-like antigens.

The ACIP recommendations for the 2010-2011 influenza season include the following five key updates:

- Beginning with the 2010-2011 influenza season, annual vaccination of all persons over the age of 6 months is recommended. Annual vaccination of all persons over 6 months should begin in September or as soon as vaccine is available for the 2010-2011 influenza season.
- Children 6 months through 8 years of age are recommended to receive 2 doses of 2010-2011 vaccine (minimum interval between doses: 4 weeks) with the following exceptions: 1) Children who have received at least 1 dose of 2009 H1N1 vaccine last flu season **and** at least one dose of seasonal vaccine prior to the 2009-2010 flu season **OR** 2) Children who have received at least 1 dose of 2009 H1N1 vaccine last flu season **and** 2 doses of seasonal flu vaccine last flu season can receive 1 dose of 2010-2011 flu vaccine.

- Based upon the data to date suggesting an increased risk of febrile seizures in children aged 6 months through 4 years following the administration of CSL Biotherapies influenza vaccine in 2010 in the Southern Hemisphere, and a higher frequency of reported fever in children aged 5 years through 8 years following influenza vaccine administration compared to previous seasons; and based on a higher frequency of fever in children aged 5 years through 8 years following administration of influenza vaccine in one clinical trial in 2009, ACIP recommends that for the 2010-11 influenza season in the United States:
 - Seasonal CSL TIV, marketed in the United States under the brand name Afluria should not be used in children aged 6 months through 8 years.
 - Other age-appropriate, licensed seasonal influenza vaccine formulations should be used for prevention of influenza in children aged 6 months through 8 years.
 - If no other age-appropriate, licensed seasonal influenza vaccine is available for a child aged 5 years through 8 years old who has a medical condition that increases their risk for influenza complications, Afluria may be given, and providers should discuss the benefits and risks of influenza vaccination with the parents or caregivers before administering Afluria.
- Protection of persons at higher risk for influenza-related complications should continue to be a focus of vaccination efforts as providers and programs transition to routine vaccination of all persons aged ≥ 6 months and when vaccine supply is limited. In these instances, vaccination efforts should focus on delivering vaccination to persons who:
 - are aged 6 months–4 years (59 months);
 - are aged ≥ 50 years;
 - have chronic pulmonary (including asthma), cardiovascular (except hypertension), renal, hepatic, neurologic, hematologic, or metabolic disorders (including diabetes mellitus);
 - are immunosuppressed (including immunosuppression caused by medications or by human immunodeficiency virus);
 - are or will be pregnant during the influenza season;
 - are aged 6 months–18 years and receiving long-term aspirin therapy and who therefore might be at risk for experiencing Reye syndrome after influenza virus infection;
 - are residents of nursing homes and other chronic-care facilities;
 - are American Indians/Alaska Natives;
 - are morbidly obese (body-mass index ≥ 40);
 - are health-care personnel;
 - are household contacts and caregivers of children aged < 5 years and adults aged ≥ 50 years, with particular emphasis on vaccinating contacts of children aged < 6 months;
 - and are household contacts and caregivers of persons with medical conditions that put them at higher risk for severe complications from influenza
- For people 65 years old and older, Fluzone High-Dose will be available. Fluzone High-Dose contains four times the amount of influenza antigen compared to other inactivated seasonal influenza vaccines. Studies are underway to assess the relative effectiveness of Fluzone High-Dose compared to standard dose inactivated influenza vaccine. The ACIP has not expressed a preference for any licensed inactivated influenza vaccine over another for use in people age 65 and older.

More Information:

Additional detailed information is available in the document and is accessible at:

<http://www.cdc.gov/mmwr/pdf/rr/rr59e0729.pdf>. Other resources on influenza are available on the NYSDOH public website at

<http://www.health.state.ny.us/diseases/communicable/influenza/seasonal/> and on the website of the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) at <http://www.cdc.gov/flu/>. For additional information please contact the Bureau of Immunization at 518-473-4437.