

DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES

Meeting of the National Vaccine Advisory Committee

AGENCY: Department of Health and Human Services, Office of the Secretary.

ACTION: Notice.

SUMMARY: As stipulated by the Federal Advisory Committee Act, the Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS) is hereby giving notice that the National Vaccine Advisory Committee (NVAC) will hold a meeting. The meeting is open to the public.

DATES: The meeting will be held on October 5, 2004, from 9 a.m. to 3:30 p.m., and on October 6, 2004, from 9 a.m. to 3:30 p.m.

ADDRESSES: Department of Health and Human Services; Hubert H. Humphrey Building, Room 800; 200 Independence Avenue, SW., Washington, DC 20201.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION, CONTACT: Ms. Emma English, Program Analyst, National Vaccine Program Office, Department of Health and Human Services, Room 725H Hubert H. Humphrey Building, 200 Independence Avenue, SW., Washington, DC 20201; (202) 690-5566, nvac@osophs.dhhs.gov.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: Pursuant to Section 2101 of the Public Service Act (42 U.S.C. 300aa-1), the Secretary of Health and Human Services was mandated to establish the National Vaccine Program (NVP) to achieve optimal prevention of human infectious diseases through immunization and to achieve optimal prevention against adverse reactions to vaccines. The Secretary designated the Assistant Secretary for Health to serve as the Director, NVPO. The National Vaccine Advisory Committee (NVAC) was established to provide advice and make recommendations to the Director, NVPO, on matters related to the program's responsibilities.

Topics to be discussed at the meeting include: Pandemic Influenza and the Pandemic Influenza Response and Preparedness Plan and the NVAC Influenza Working Group's assessment of domestic influenza issues/needs. Updates will be given on the NVAC Working Group on Public Participation, the NVAC Working Group on Vaccine Financing, the NVAC Vaccine Safety and Communications Subcommittee, the NVAC Futures Vaccines Subcommittee, and the NVAC Immunization Coverage Subcommittee. A tentative agenda will be made available on or about September 21 for review on the NVAC Web site: <http://www.hhs.gov/nvpo/nvac>.

Public attendance at the meeting is limited to space available. Individuals must provide a photo ID for entry into the Humphrey Building. Individuals who plan to attend and need special assistance, such as sign language interpretation or other reasonable accommodations, should notify the designated contact person. Members of the public will have the opportunity to provide comments at the meeting. Public comment will be limited to five minutes per speaker. Any members of the public who wish to have printed material distributed to NVAC members should submit materials to the Executive Secretary, NVAC, through the contact person listed above prior to close of business September 29, 2004. Preregistration is required for both public attendance and comment. Any individual who wishes to attend the meeting and/or participate in the public comment session should e-mail nvac@osophs.dhhs.gov

Dated: August 24, 2004.

Sarah Landry,

Associate Director for Communication and Legislation, National Vaccine Program Office.

[FR Doc. 04-19601 Filed 8-26-04; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 4150-28-P

DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES

DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

Announcement of the Availability of the Final Report of the Dietary Guidelines Advisory Committee, a Public Comment Period, and a Public Meeting

AGENCIES: Office of Public Health and Science, HHS; and Food, Nutrition and Consumer Services and Research, Education and Economics, USDA.

ACTION: Notice.

SUMMARY: The Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) and the Department of Agriculture (USDA) (a) announce the availability of the final Report of the Dietary Guidelines Advisory Committee on the Dietary Guidelines for Americans, 2005 (Report); (b) solicit written comments on the Report; and (c) provide notice of a public meeting to solicit oral comments on the Report. The meeting will be held at the Hubert H. Humphrey Building, 200 Independence Avenue, SW., Small Auditorium, Washington, DC, 20201. Registration is required to provide oral comments at the meeting and to attend the meeting.

DATES: (a) The final report of the Dietary Guidelines Advisory Committee (the

Committee) will be available for comments on August 27, 2004. (b) Written comments on the Committee's report can be submitted and must be received by the Agencies on or before 5 p.m. E.D.T., September 27, 2004. (c) The public meeting to solicit oral comments on the report will be held on September 21, 2004, starting at 9 a.m. E.D.T. Requests to present oral testimony must be received by 5 p.m. E.D.T., September 14, 2004.

ADDRESSES: (a) The final Report of the Committee is available electronically at <http://www.health.gov/dietaryguidelines> or in hard copy for viewing at Suite LL100, 1101 Wootton Parkway, Rockville, Maryland 20852. (b) Written comments may be submitted at <http://www.health.gov/dietaryguidelines> or mailed to Kathryn McMurry, HHS Office of Disease Prevention and Health Promotion, Office of Public Health and Science, 1101 Wootton Parkway, Suite LL100, Rockville, Maryland 20852, (phone 240-453-8280). (c) The public meeting will be held at the Hubert H. Humphrey Building, 200 Independence Avenue, SW., Small Auditorium, Washington, DC, 20201.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: HHS Co-Executive Secretary: Kathryn McMurry (phone 240-453-8272), HHS Office of Disease Prevention and Health Promotion, Office of Public Health and Science, 1101 Wootton Parkway, Suite LL100, Rockville, MD 20852. USDA Co-Executive Secretaries: Carole Davis (phone 703-305-7600), USDA Center for Nutrition Policy and Promotion, 3101 Park Center Drive, Room 1034, Alexandria, Virginia 22302, or Pamela Pehrsson (phone 301-504-0716), USDA Agricultural Research Service, Beltsville Agricultural Research Center-West, Building 005, Room 309A, Beltsville, Maryland 20705. Additional information is available on the Internet at <http://www.health.gov/dietaryguidelines>.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

I. Dietary Guidelines Advisory Committee Report

The thirteen-member Dietary Guidelines Advisory Committee was appointed by the Departments of Health and Human Services and Agriculture in August, 2003 to assist the Departments in providing sound and current dietary guidance to consumers. The National Nutrition Monitoring and Related Research Act of 1990, Public Law 101-445, Title III, 7 U.S.C. 5301 et seq., requires the Secretaries of HHS and USDA to publish the Dietary Guidelines for Americans at least every five years. During its first meeting on September

23–24, 2003, the Committee decided that the science has changed since the 2000 edition of Nutrition and Your Health: Dietary Guidelines for Americans and further evaluation of the science was necessary. The Committee has finalized its recommendations and submitted its Report to the Secretaries of the Departments of Health and Human Services and Agriculture. This Report will serve as the basis for the sixth edition of Nutrition and Your Health: Dietary Guidelines for Americans, which HHS and USDA expect to publish in January, 2005.

The final report of the Dietary Guidelines Advisory Committee is available electronically at <http://www.health.gov/dietaryguidelines> or in hard copy for viewing (refer to the ADDRESSES section, above).

II. Written Comment

By this notice, HHS and USDA are soliciting submission of written comments on the Committee's final Report, as well as views, information and data pertinent to preparation of Nutrition and Your Health: Dietary Guidelines for Americans. Comments must be received by 5 p.m. e.d.t. on September 27, 2004 to assure consideration. Comments may be submitted at <http://www.health.gov/dietaryguidelines> or mailed to Kathryn McMurry, HHS Office of Disease Prevention and Health Promotion, Office of Public Health and Science, 1101 Wootton Parkway, Suite LL100, Rockville, MD 20852, (phone 240-453-8280). For those submitting written comments more than 5 pages in length, please provide a 1-page summary of key points related to the comments submitted. E-mailed comments will not be accepted.

III. Announcement of Meeting

A public meeting to solicit oral comments on the Report will take place on September 21, 2004, starting at 9 a.m. e.d.t. The meeting will be held at the Hubert H. Humphrey Building, 200 Independence Avenue, SW., Small Auditorium, Washington, DC, 20201. The building is located 2 blocks from the Federal Center, SW. stop on the blue and orange metro lines. The agenda will include oral testimony from registered individuals or groups.

Public Participation at Meeting: The meeting is open to the public. Space is limited. Due to the need for security screening, registration is required for all attendees. To register, please e-mail dietaryguidelines@osophs.dhhs.gov, with "Meeting Registration" in the subject line or call Sandra Saunders at (240) 453-8272 by 5 p.m. e.d.t., Friday,

September 14, 2004. Registration must include your name, affiliation, and phone number. Visitors must bring proper identification to attend the meeting. If you require a sign language interpreter, please call Sandra Saunders at (240) 453-8272 by September 14, 2004.

Oral Testimony: By this notice, the Departments are inviting submission of applications for oral testimony at the public meeting. Due to time limitations, registration is required and will be limited to one presenter per organization. Registration to present oral testimony will be confirmed on a first-come, first-served basis, as time on the meeting agenda permits. Name of the presenter, organization affiliation (if applicable), source of funding, and contact phone number are required for registration. Requests to testify must include a written outline of the intended testimony not exceeding one page in length. Requests can be submitted electronically with "Oral Testimony Registration" in the subject line, to dietaryguidelines@osophs.dhhs.gov. All requests to present oral testimony must be received by 5 p.m. e.d.t., September 14, 2004. Presenters are required to disclose their affiliation and their source of funding to give oral testimony at the meeting and must limit their comments to three minutes. Please call Sandra Saunders at (240) 453-8272 if you have questions regarding registration.

Dated: August 23, 2004.

Penelope S. Royall,

Deputy Assistant Secretary for Health, (Disease Prevention and Health Promotion), Department of Health and Human Services.

Dated: August 23, 2004.

Eric J. Hentges,

Executive Director, Center for Nutrition Policy and Promotion, Department of Agriculture.

[FR Doc. 04-19563 Filed 8-26-04; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 4150-32-P

DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES

Draft Pandemic Influenza Preparedness and Response Plan

AGENCY: Department of Health and Human Services, Office of the Secretary.

ACTION: Notice.

SUMMARY: The National Vaccine Program Office (NVPO), Department of Health and Human Services, has drafted a plan to guide national preparedness and response to an influenza pandemic. The draft Pandemic Influenza Preparedness and Response Plan articulates a coordinated strategy to

prepare and respond to an influenza pandemic and provides guidance to national, state, and local policy makers and health departments for public health preparation and response in the event of pandemic influenza outbreak. The draft plan includes a core section and twelve annexes. The core plan describes coordination and decision-making activities at the National level; provides an overview of key issues; and outlines action steps that should be taken at National, state, and local levels before and during a pandemic. Annexes provide additional information for health departments and private sector organizations, which can be used in developing local preparedness plans as well as additional technical information to support the core document.

DATES: Comments will be considered if we receive them at the appropriate address, as provided below, no later than 5 p.m. on October 26, 2004.

ADDRESSES: Attn: Pandemic Plan, National Vaccine Program Office, Hubert H. Humphrey Building, Room 725H, 200 Independence Avenue, SW., Washington, DC 20201 or by email at pandemicinfluenza@osophs.dhhs.gov.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:

Persons with access to the Internet may obtain the document at <http://www.dhhs.gov/nvpo/pandemicplan>. Submit requests for single copies of the draft pandemic plan to the address identified below.

Attn: Pandemic Plan, National Vaccine Program Office, Hubert H. Humphrey Building, Room 725H, 200 Independence Avenue, SW., Washington, DC 20201 or by email at pandemicinfluenza@osophs.dhhs.gov.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

I. Background

An influenza pandemic represents a major threat to health and may cause substantial social and economic disruption. Planning and implementing preparedness activities are critical to improving the effectiveness of a response and decreasing the impacts of a pandemic. The draft Pandemic Influenza Preparedness and Response Plan was developed to define national preparedness and response activities, and to guide planning activities that are underway at the State and local levels in both the public and private sectors. The plan is designed to be consistent with other health emergency preparedness and response plans while also recognizing the unique issues that an influenza pandemic would present.