

**From:** Clinician Outreach and Communication Activity (CDC)  
**Sent:** Monday, November 24, 2008 3:37 PM  
**To:** Clinician Outreach and Communication Activity (CDC)  
**Subject:** CDC Updates for Clinicians: Nov. 17 - 24, 2008



November 24, 2008

The following updates were made to CDC information and guidance from **Nov. 17 - 24, 2008**. If you have any questions on these or other clinical issues, please write to us at [coca@cdc.gov](mailto:coca@cdc.gov).

**Today's topics Include:**

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## Hib Vaccine Shortage

### **Continued Shortage of Haemophilus influenzae Type b (Hib) Conjugate Vaccines and Potential Implications for Hib Surveillance - United States, 2008 - CDC - MMWR - Nov. 21**

In December 2007, Merck & Co., Inc. (West Point, Pennsylvania) announced a voluntary recall of certain lots of two Haemophilus influenzae type b (Hib) conjugate vaccines, PedvaxHIB (monovalent Hib vaccine) and Comvax (Hib-HepB vaccine) and suspended production of both vaccines, disrupting the U.S. supply of Hib vaccine. When the recall was announced, Merck projected restoration of these vaccines to the U.S. market in late 2008. On October 17, 2008, Merck announced that restoration of the two vaccines to the market would be delayed until mid-2009. Because the continued delay might result in an increase in Hib disease, national surveillance for invasive Hib disease has become particularly important.

<http://www.cdc.gov/mmwr/preview/mmwrhtml/mm5746a2.htm>

## Infectious Disease

### **Newly discovered Ebola virus associated with hemorrhagic fever outbreak in Uganda - CIDRAP - Nov. 21**

Researchers from the United States and Uganda have released the first full scientific report on a new Ebola species that struck western Uganda late last year and was linked to 149 suspected cases and 37 deaths, at least 4 of them healthcare providers.

<http://www.cidrap.umn.edu/cidrap/content/bt/vhf/news/nov2108ebola-jw.html>

## Bioterrorism Preparedness

### **Amoxicillin for Postexposure Inhalational Anthrax in Pediatrics: Rationale For Dosing Recommendations - Pediatric Infectious Disease Journal - Nov.**

Although ciprofloxacin and doxycycline are preferred drugs for prophylaxis and prevention of inhalational anthrax, amoxicillin is a therapeutic alternative in patients for whom ciprofloxacin and doxycycline may have significant adverse effects, particularly pediatric patients. Follow the link below for the article abstract (access to the complete article requires a subscription).

<http://www.pidj.org/pt/re/pidj/abstract>

## Seasonal Influenza

**Weekly Report: Influenza Summary Update - Nov. 21**

During week 46, WHO and NREVSS laboratories located in all 50 states and Washington D.C. reported 1,772 specimens tested for influenza viruses, 16 of which were positive: five influenza A (H1) viruses (Mid-Atlantic, South Atlantic, and West South Central regions), eight influenza A viruses that were not subtyped (East North Central, Mountain, Pacific, and West South Central regions), and three influenza B viruses (East North Central, South Atlantic, and West South Central regions). Twenty-three states from eight of the nine surveillance regions have reported laboratory-confirmed influenza this season.

<http://www.cdc.gov/flu/weekly/>

**Weekly US Map - Nov. 21**

<http://www.cdc.gov/flu/weekly/usmap.htm>

**2008-2009 Flu Vaccines: Lot Release Status - Nov. 19**

Flu vaccine lots that have been released by FDA and are available for distribution by the manufacturers. For information on flu vaccine distribution schedules, please contact the manufacturers directly.

<http://www.fda.gov/cber/flu/flu2008.htm>

## Food Safety

**Food Safety Tips for Healthy Holidays - FDA -**

Here are a few safety tips that can help make the upcoming holidays a more healthy and festive time with friends and family members.

<http://www.fda.gov/consumer/updates/foodsafetytips111307.html>

## Travelers' Health

**Health Requirements and Recommendations for Travel to Saudi Arabia during the Hajj: Information for U.S. Travelers - CDC - Nov. 20**

Travelers to Saudi Arabia for the Hajj should expect large crowds at places of worship, gathering, and lodging. This overcrowding may lead to an increased risk of accidental injury and infectious diseases, such as meningococcal disease (meningitis), the flu, and other respiratory illnesses. In addition to the Saudi government requirement, CDC also recommends meningococcal vaccine because of outbreaks of meningitis associated with the Hajj in 1987 and 2000.

<http://wwwn.cdc.gov/travel/contentHajj2008.aspx>

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**Please send us your feedback or comments:** <http://www.cdc.gov/flu/coca/feedback.htm>.

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