

Dear Colleague:

The 2008 draft strategic National Vaccine Plan is the initial step in updating the 1994 National Vaccine Plan. This document is primarily the result of deliberation, analysis, and input from multiple Federal agencies under the coordination of the National Vaccine Program Office (NVPO). In developing this draft, we drew upon the analysis and the recommendations of the June, 2008 Letter Report from the Institute of Medicine (available at <http://www.iom.edu/CMS/3793/55143.aspx>). We found a number of the committee's suggestions to be particularly helpful, including the recommendation that this be a national, rather than federal, plan, and that it have measurable goals, objectives, and milestones. To that end, we reviewed several recent federal strategic plans, and concluded that we needed to develop both a strategic plan *and* an implementation plan.

The draft strategic Plan on this page includes goals, high level indicators of measurable outcomes, objectives, and strategies to achieve each goal. NVPO, with the National Vaccine Advisory Committee, will implement a process to obtain input from a wide range of stakeholder groups. This input will include comments on this draft strategic plan and additional strategies that they can contribute to achieve Plan goals. In addition, input from the public will also be solicited to identify priority areas from their perspective. This process will serve as the basis for the development of the updated National Vaccine Plan. The Implementation Plan, which we are developing, will define specific activities and agency and stakeholder-specific milestones. We expect a draft to be ready for review by late fall, 2009.

To date, this draft strategic plan is based largely on the work of Federal agencies. Stakeholder input will be a critical next step, and the involvement of national stakeholders in identifying milestones and making commitments to accomplish the activities that cannot be completed by federal agencies alone. Because of this, extensive outreach and consultation will be implemented as the Plan is finalized. Recognizing that success requires careful follow-through as well as planning, we envision an annual review of progress with the Assistant Secretary for Health, as well as a public mid-course review.

There are several areas in which we particularly need input, which can be sent to NVPO at nvpo@hhs.gov. First, are the goals and indicators appropriate? Should the plan be fully achievable, aspirational, or a combination of the two? In particular, we would appreciate some recommendations for the numeric targets for the indicators – in particular suggestions on how we ultimately set the targets. We would also appreciate comments on the overall vaccine and immunization enterprise described in the draft strategic Plan, recognizing that the implementation plan will follow shortly. Finally, we would appreciate guidance regarding how to think about the concept of 'accountability' for non-federal stakeholders that are part of the plan, because their role is so critical.