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FM COMDT COGARD WASHINGTON DC//CG-11//
TO ALCOAST

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ALCOAST 377/12

COMDTNOTE 6010

SUBJ: 2012-2013 SEASONAL INFLUENZA (FLU) IMMUNIZATION PROGRAM A. Civilian Employee Health Care and Occupational Health Program, COMDTINST M12792.3 (series) B.

Immunizations and Chemoprophylaxis, COMDTINST M6230.4 (series) 1. The annual seasonal flu vaccine is mandatory for all Coast Guard

(CG) active duty (AD) and selected reserve (SELRES) personnel to ensure CG force medical readiness and avoid disruption of CG missions. The seasonal flu vaccine is also mandatory for CG child development center personnel and CG civilian, contract, and auxiliary healthcare personnel who provide direct patient care in CG clinics.

The annual flu vaccine is optional for recreation assistants and aides for youth programs at Borinquen, Cape Cod, Kodiak, and Petaluma.

2. Commanding Officers are responsible for ensuring personnel immunization readiness, including the seasonal flu vaccine. One immunization will protect against three strains of flu. CG personnel may receive the flu immunization as supplies become available. CG personnel shall achieve 100 percent compliance NLT 17 December 2012.

3. Seasonal flu immunization for the AD and SELRES personnel shall be entered into the Medical Readiness Reporting System (MRRS).

Exemptions to the immunization may be considered in accordance with Refs (A) and (B).

4. There are two seasonal flu vaccine options:

- a. Nasal Spray (FLUMIST) or
- b. Injectable

5. FLUMIST can be used for individuals aged 2-49 years who have no medical contraindications. Discuss your medical history

with your primary care manager (PCM) to determine the best vaccine choice for you. FLUMIST is not authorized for personnel on active flight or diving status.

6. Eligibility: AD and SELRES Personnel, deploying civilian personnel, civilian healthcare personnel providing direct patient care in CG clinics, and child development center personnel are the highest priority groups. Other DEERS-Eligible beneficiaries deemed high risk by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) are the next highest priority. Once these populations are immunized, clinics may offer the flu vaccine to all other beneficiaries and then all CG civilian employees as supplies allow. Contract healthcare and CG child development center personnel will receive the flu vaccine in accordance with the terms of their contract.

7. It is preferred that AD and SELRES personnel receive their vaccine at a CG clinic/sickbay. However, seasonal flu vaccines are available for eligible TRICARE beneficiaries by any TRICARE authorized provider through one of the network pharmacies that participates in the vaccination program at no cost to the member. To locate a participating pharmacy visit:

<http://www.express-scripts.com/TRICARE> or call 1-877-363-1303 (Option number 5). AD and SELRES personnel who choose to obtain their seasonal flu vaccine through this avenue must obtain flu vaccine immunization documentation (with vaccine type, lot number, and date

administered) at the time of the immunization and forward to their respective CG medical readiness POC in a timely manner for documentation into MRRS.

8. Taking simple daily precautions can help prevent illness and transmission of seasonal flu. Cover your cough or sneeze, practice good hygiene by washing hands often and using alcohol-based hand sanitizer, and using disinfectant wipes to clean your work area. For more information on seasonal influenza and preventive measures, go to the CDC website at:

<http://www.cdc.gov/FLU>.

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10. RADM Maura K. Dollymore, Director of Health, Safety, and Work-Life, sends.

11. Internet release authorized.

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