



THE ASSISTANT SECRETARY OF DEFENSE

WASHINGTON, D. C. 20301-1200

JAN 14 2005

HEALTH AFFAIRS

MEMORANDUM FOR ASSISTANT SECRETARY OF THE ARMY (M&RA)
ASSISTANT SECRETARY OF THE NAVY (M&RA)
ASSISTANT SECRETARY OF THE AIR FORCE (M&RA)
USCG DIRECTOR OF HEALTH AND SAFETY

SUBJECT: Policy Guidance Influenza Vaccine, 2004-2005 Season - January Update

While this year's influenza season is mild so far, compared to last year, it has not yet reached its peak. To ensure we provide our population with the best possible protection from influenza, it is essential that we maximize our use of influenza vaccine prior to the peak of the influenza season. The Department of Defense (DoD) utilization of the trivalent inactivated vaccine (TIV) has been much lower than anticipated, just as it has been for the rest of the nation. All Services report that while they have increased use of the live attenuated influenza vaccine (LAIV) in healthy individuals, they have not had good response to efforts to get medically high risk persons to present for vaccination with the TIV. As a result, we still have a substantial inventory of TIV.

The Services should continue aggressive efforts to get the medically high risk beneficiaries to be immunized with TIV. Military Treatment Facility (MTF) commanders with excess TIV may use this vaccine for non-high risk persons and for healthy military members when they have determined that delaying the use of this product will result in its going to waste. Though they are not at high risk for complications from influenza, healthy individuals should be encouraged to obtain influenza vaccination with either LAIV or TIV, for their own health and to interrupt transmission of influenza virus within our beneficiary population.

My point of contact for this matter is LTC(P) Steve Phillips, 703-575-2669 (Stephen.phillips@ha.osd.mil).

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "William Winkenwerder, Jr.".

William Winkenwerder, Jr., MD

cc:
Director Joint Staff
Defense Supply Center Philadelphia
Assistant Secretary of Defense (Reserve Affairs)

HA POLICY: 05-001