



THE ASSISTANT SECRETARY OF DEFENSE

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NOV 08 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)
DIRECTOR, JOINT STAFF

SUBJECT: Policy for the Use of Influenza Vaccine for 2005-2006 Influenza Season

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) and the Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices (ACIP) have developed recommendations for the 2005-2006 influenza season. Their recommendations are based solely on clinical and epidemiological risk factors for mortality and morbidity from influenza and do not address military readiness.

For the 2005-2006 influenza season, the Department of Defense (DoD) has contracted for a total of 3.5 million doses of vaccine, which include 3.1 million doses of inactivated vaccine and 0.4 million doses of live attenuated vaccine. 360,000 doses of the live attenuated vaccine have been delivered, with 90,000 remaining to be shipped. 248,000 doses of inactivated vaccine (Fluzone) have been sent for use by U.S. Army Medical Materiel Center Southwest Asia (USAMMC-SWA). An additional 2.6 million doses has been delivered. The remaining vaccine will be delivered by November 15. The Military Departments will utilize early vaccine doses to target priority groups, including deployed or deploying personnel, critical support staff, and high risk groups as listed in the Morbidity and Mortality Weekly Report, September 2, 2005 / 54(34); 850, which delineates the CDC's priority groups for influenza immunization. These high risk groups can be found at <http://www.cdc.gov/mmwr/preview/mmwrhtml/mm5434a4.htm>. Full-scale immunization campaigns for other lower priority groups will begin after reasonable attempts are made to vaccinate higher priority groups and when vaccine supplies are adequate. Immunizations should begin as soon as the vaccine is received. Immunization should continue until the expiration date on the vaccine label. Steps to minimize vaccine waste are important.

The epidemiology branch of the Air Force Institute for Operational Health (AFIOH) will update the influenza surveillance Web site twice each week during the influenza season (<https://gumbo.brooks.af.mil/pestilence/influenza>). Results from the laboratory surveillance are reported weekly during the flu season in the DoD weekly influenza surveillance report published by the AFIOH.

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In addition to this laboratory-based surveillance data, AFIOH will analyze morbidity data from the Electronic System for the Early Notification of Community-based Epidemics for influenza-like illnesses and the DoD hospitalization data for influenza and influenza-related hospitalizations. These data will be included in the weekly report. Weekly summary and final reports will be coordinated between AFIOH and DOD GEIS for submission to Health Affairs. The Air Force continues to be the executive agent for laboratory-based influenza surveillance. Sentinel sites are selected based on their location, mission, and training status.

DoD policy requires all active duty personnel and Reserve personnel be vaccinated against influenza according to Service specific guidelines. The Military Departments will monitor implementation via electronic reporting to the Defense Eligibility Enrollment Reporting System. The Military Departments are directed to begin implementation of this policy guidance immediately.


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