

It's Time to Order Vaccine & Prepare for the 2010-2011 Flu Season!

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ACIP has recommended Universal Flu Vaccination for the 2010-2011 Flu Season.

The Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices (ACIP) voted to recommend universal flu vaccination for all persons 6 months of age and older without a contraindication to vaccination, such as an egg allergy. This recommendation will allow you to protect more patients from the flu than ever before. It will also simplify your flu vaccination process since you will no longer need to screen patients 6 months of age and older based on their age or health conditions, except to identify candidates for live attenuated flu vaccine.

If you have a limited supply of vaccine, you may consider vaccinating high-risk patients first. However, vaccinating the people around high-risk patients, particularly children, who are likely to bring flu into the household may be the best way to protect these high-risk patients.

The Pandemic H1N1 antigen will be one of three components in the 2010-2011 trivalent seasonal flu vaccine.

A separate vaccine will not be needed to protect against Pandemic H1N1 flu. A single trivalent vaccine will protect your patients from the flu virus strains that are mostly likely to circulate in the fall. The 2010-2011 trivalent vaccine will include: A/California/7/2009, A/Perth/16/2009, and B/Brisbane/60/2008.

Patients who received Pandemic H1N1 monovalent flu vaccine this past flu season will not likely have significant residual protection against the H1N1 virus strain in the upcoming season. They will also need to be protected against the other two strains of flu that might circulate this year. For these two reasons, they will need to receive trivalent flu vaccine this fall.

If you have not ordered flu vaccine, please place your order with the manufacturers now.

Trivalent seasonal flu vaccine will only be available this fall through vaccine manufacturers and distributors. Vaccine will not be provided through the national centralized flu vaccine distribution program in collaboration with local health departments that was in place to support Pandemic H1N1 flu vaccination.

It is important to place your flu vaccine order as soon as possible so that you are more likely to have an adequate vaccine supply in early fall to meet your patients' needs.

Contact information for flu vaccination manufacturers and distributors is available at:

- www.flusupplynews.com/resources.cfm
- www.preventinfluenza.org/profs_production.asp

A physician recommendation is the most influential factor in a patient's choice to be vaccinated.

In the upcoming flu season, use every encounter as an opportunity to immunize your patients.

English-language and Spanish-language patient and staff educational materials are available for download at www.eziz.org.

In the fall, visit www.immunize.org to download multi-language Vaccine Information Statements (VIS).

Stay up-to-date with the latest information on the flu vaccine.

Visit the Los Angeles County Department of Public Health, Immunization Program website at www.publichealth.lacounty.gov/ip or contact the Immunization Program on weekdays between 8:00 am and 5:00 pm at 213-351-7800.

