

## **DoD Influenza Vaccine Program – 2004/05 Season**

### **Current News**

*The severe nation-wide shortage of the influenza vaccine for the 2004-2005 influenza season will affect how the Department of Defense implements its vaccine program. DoD anticipated using approximately 3.7 million doses of the influenza vaccine this year and ordered nearly 70 percent of its supply of influenza vaccine from Chiron, a major manufacturer of influenza vaccine for the United States. On October 5, 2004, Chiron notified the Centers for Disease Control & Prevention that none of its influenza vaccine would be available for distribution this season. Due to a shortage of approximately 1.5 million doses, some service members and eligible beneficiaries will be deferred from receiving the vaccine this year. To ensure military readiness among its critical operational forces, DoD drafted a new interim policy for the Services for administering available vaccine. Additionally, the Department of Defense is working with other manufacturers, Aventis Pasteur, and MedImmune, maker of the nasal influenza vaccine (FluMist), to provide additional vaccine.*

### **Key Messages**

- The health and well being of our military members (troops) and our other beneficiaries are our highest priorities.
- The Department of Defense readjusted priorities for its influenza vaccine program due to the national shortage of vaccine.
  - Our priorities for vaccination follow the guidelines published by the Center for Disease Control and Prevention
  - We are confident that this reprioritization will allow us to sustain our vital military missions
  - Our revised plan for vaccinations will protect our beneficiaries at most risk.
- The effect of the vaccine shortage on the Military Health System's influenza vaccination program is similar as that on the rest of the nation.

## **Key Points**

- We anticipate that all of our high-risk beneficiaries and all of our operationally employed service members will be vaccinated on time this flu season.
- The Department of Defense plans to use a supply of flu vaccine for the 2004-2005 season from two sources, 1.8 million doses ordered from *Aventis Pasteur* and 250,000 doses of nasal vaccine (Flumist) from *MedImmune* (50,000 doses en route, and 200,000 from the company's next production in late November. DoD had planned to use 2.4 million doses we had ordered from Chiron; however, that order has been cancelled with the company's Oct. 5, 2004, announcement that it would not ship any vaccine this year. Based on Chiron's announcement, we revised our plan for the 2004-2005 immunization program.
- Our revised calculations estimate that we have 2.1 million service members and high-risk beneficiaries who are the highest priority for receiving the influenza vaccine.
- The additional 1.6 million doses in our original vaccination plan of 3.7 million reflect historical usage of the vaccine by those beneficiaries who do not fall into one of the high risk or active duty groups.

## **Priority Groups Identified by CDC for Influenza Vaccination**

The following priority groups for vaccination with inactivated influenza vaccine this season are considered to be of equal importance and are:

- all children aged 6–23 months;
- adults aged 65 years and older;
- persons aged 2–64 years with underlying chronic medical conditions;
- all women who will be pregnant during the influenza season;
- residents of nursing homes and long-term care facilities;

- children aged 6 months–18 years on chronic aspirin therapy;
- health care workers involved in direct patient care; and
- out-of-home caregivers and household contacts of children aged less than 6 months.

## **Shipping Schedule**

### **Aventis Pasteur**

Aventis has stated they will provide enough additional vaccine to cover all of our key operational forces as well as our “high risk” beneficiaries. We are currently formalizing this agreement with them.

- 680,000 dose received and being deployed
- 400,000 doses by Oct. 29
- 400,000 doses by Nov. 5
- 346,000 dose by Nov. 12

### **MedImmune**

The makers of the nasal flu vaccine (Flumist) is shipping our initial order of 50,000 doses now and will be providing an additional 200,000 doses in early December. This vaccine is only approved for use in healthy individuals between 5 and 49 years of age.

- shipping 50,000 doses of Flumist to DoD now
- additional 200,000 doses early December