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TO: California Physicians and Acute Care Hospitals

FROM: Howard Backer, M.D., M.P.H., Chief
Immunization Branch

SUBJECT: Ordering Influenza Vaccine for the 2008-2009 Season

Dear Colleague:

Pre-booking of influenza vaccine the 2008-2009 season has begun. Contact your distributor or manufacturer (current list at www.preventinfluenza.org/ivats/) regarding their ordering procedures.

Hospitals and health care providers should consider recent California laws when ordering influenza vaccine for the 2008-09 influenza season, including:

For staff at general acute care hospitals:

1. Effective October 1 2008, California Health and Safety (H&S) Code Section 20392.9 requires general acute care hospitals to offer influenza and pneumococcal immunizations to their inpatients aged 65 years or older prior to discharge: http://www.leginfo.ca.gov/pub/07-08/bill/asm/ab_0101-0150/ab_106_bill_20071010_chaptered.html
2. H&S Code Section 1288.7 requires general acute care hospitals to offer free influenza vaccinations to its employees onsite each year: <http://www.leginfo.ca.gov/cgi-bin/displaycode?section=hsc&group=01001-02000&file=1288.5-1288.9>

For everybody providing influenza vaccine:

3. H&S Code Section 124172 forbids the administration of mercury-containing vaccines to persons who are pregnant or younger than 3 years old. These

persons should receive doses with traces of or no mercury (thimerosal):
<http://www.leginfo.ca.gov/cgi-bin/displaycode?section=hsc&group=124001-125000&file=124172>.

The following information is provided to assist you in complying with the law on mercury in vaccines when ordering influenza vaccine.

A) The following influenza vaccine meets the State law's mercury limit and is currently licensed for use in children younger than 3 years old:

<u>Manufacturer</u>	<u>Trade Name</u>	<u>Packaged as</u>
Sanofi Pasteur Inc	Fluzone [®] No Preservative: Pediatric Dose (Children 6-35 months of age)	prefilled 0.25 mL unit dose syringes
MedImmune Inc	FluMist [®] (Person 2-49 years of age)	prefilled 0.2 mL unit dose nasal sprayer

B) The following influenza vaccines meet the State law's mercury limit and may be given to pregnant women:

<u>Manufacturer</u>	<u>Trade Name</u>	<u>Packaged as</u>
CSL Limited	Afluria [®] (no preservative)	prefilled 0.5 mL unit dose syringes <i>– check with manufacturer or distributor regarding availability in 2008-2009 season</i>
GlaxoSmithKline	Fluarix [®]	prefilled 0.5 mL unit dose syringes
Novartis	Fluvirin [®] Preservative-free	prefilled 0.5 mL syringes <i>– check with manufacturer or distributor regarding availability in 2008-2009 season</i>
Sanofi Pasteur Inc	Fluzone [®] No Preservative	0.5 mL unit dose vial
Sanofi Pasteur Inc	Fluzone [®] No Preservative	prefilled 0.5 mL unit dose syringes

C) The following influenza vaccines do not meet the State law's mercury limit:

<u>Manufacturer</u>	<u>Trade Name</u>	<u>Packaged as</u>
CSL Limited	Afluria [®]	5 mL multi-dose vial
GlaxoSmithKline	FluLaval [®]	5 mL multi-dose vial
Novartis/Chiron	Fluvirin [®]	5 mL multi-dose vial
Sanofi Pasteur Inc	Fluzone [®]	5 mL multi-dose vial

For additional questions about these topics, please contact either

- 1) Your local health department's immunization program, which is listed at <http://www.dhs.ca.gov/ps/dcdc/izgroup/shared/depts.htm> under "Vaccine Programs - Local Health Department Listing," or
- 2) Nisha Gandhi at CDPH Immunization Branch, telephone number (510) 620-3732.

cc: Immunization Branch Field Representatives
Local Health Department Immunization Coordinators
Local Health Department Health Officers