



North Carolina Department of Health and Human Services
Division of Public Health – Women’s & Children’s Health Section

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State Health Director

August 30, 2012

MEMORANDUM:

TO: LHD Senior Vaccination Season Coordinators
LHD Nursing Directors
LHD Directors

FROM: Beth Rowe-West, R.N., B.S.N., Head *BRW*
Immunization Branch

SUBJECT: Adult Immunization and Influenza Season, 2012-2013

The purpose of this memorandum is to provide updated information to assist with your preparation for the upcoming influenza season. This influenza season’s recommendations from the CDC’s Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices (ACIP) regarding the use of influenza vaccine was issued electronically on August 16, 2012 entitled “Prevention and Control of Influenza with Vaccines: Recommendations of the Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices (ACIP) – United States, 2012-13 Influenza Season” was published in the Morbidity and Mortality Weekly Report (MMWR), August 17, 2012 / 61(32); 613-618. In order to see the recommendations, go to: <http://1.usa.gov/Ro0VZu>.

The first paragraph, which summarizes the information presented in the recommendations, is reprinted below:

In 2010, the Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices (ACIP) first recommended annual influenza vaccination for all persons aged ≥ 6 months in the United States (1). Annual influenza vaccination of all persons aged ≥ 6 months continues to be recommended. This document 1) describes influenza vaccine virus strains included in the U.S. seasonal influenza vaccine for 2012–13; 2) provides guidance for the use of influenza vaccines during the 2012–13 season, including an updated vaccination schedule for children aged 6 months through 8 years and a description of available vaccine products and indications; 3) discusses febrile seizures associated with administration of influenza and 13-valent pneumococcal conjugate (PCV-13) vaccines; 4) provides vaccination recommendations for persons with a history of egg allergy; and 5) discusses the development of quadrivalent influenza vaccines for use in future influenza seasons. Information regarding issues related to influenza vaccination that are not addressed in this update is available in CDC’s *Prevention and Control of Influenza with Vaccines: Recommendations of the Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices (ACIP), 2010* and associated updates.

CDC staff created key communication message points for the upcoming season. Please see the points below to assist you in the influenza planning you are currently conducting.

- Increase awareness of universal vaccination recommendation for everyone 6 months of age and older.
- Foster knowledge and favorable beliefs regarding influenza vaccine and vaccination recommendations.
- Maintain/extend confidence in flu vaccine safety.
- Promote/encourage vaccination throughout the flu season.
- Address disparities in vaccination coverage.

For additional information, go to the Immunization Branch's website at: www.immunize.nc.gov. Search under "Health Care Providers" to locate downloadable influenza materials you may use for your work this season. Also helpful is the NCIP Coverage Criteria on our website which outlines the NCIP vaccine usage: www.immunize.nc.gov.

Thank you for advancing influenza immunizations with your patients *and the LHD staff*. If you have questions about adult vaccines, please call Sandy Allen, Adult Immunization Coordinator, at (919) 707-5566.

cc: Local Health Department Directors
Joy Reed
Regional Immunization Staff
SMT

Marti Wolf
Directors of Nursing, LHD
Peter Graber
Vaccine Manufacturers