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Update: Influenza Vaccine Supply and Recommendations for Prioritization During the 2005--06 Influenza Season

Influenza vaccine distribution delays or vaccine supply shortages have occurred in the United States in three of the last five influenza seasons (1,2). In response, prioritization has been implemented in previous years to ensure that enough vaccine is available for those at the highest risk for complications from influenza (3). The information in this report updates projections of influenza vaccine supply and previous recommendations for priority use of trivalent inactivated influenza vaccine (TIV) during the 2005--06 influenza season (4).

Four manufacturers now expect to provide influenza vaccine to the U.S. population during the 2005--06 influenza season (Table). Sanofi Pasteur, Inc., projects production of 60 million doses of TIV. Chiron Corporation projects production of 18--26 million doses of TIV. GlaxoSmithKline (GSK), Inc., whose license application was approved by the Food and Drug Administration on August 31, 2005, projects production of 8 million doses of TIV. MedImmune Vaccines, Inc., producer of live attenuated influenza vaccine (LAIV), projects production of approximately 3 million doses. However, because of the uncertainties regarding production of influenza vaccine, the exact number of available doses and timing of vaccine distribution for the 2005--06 influenza season remain unknown.

Given the uncertainties in doses and distribution, CDC recommends that the following priority groups receive TIV until October 24, 2005:

- persons aged ≥ 65 years with comorbid conditions
- residents of long-term-care facilities
- persons aged 2--64 years with comorbid conditions
- persons aged ≥ 65 years without comorbid conditions
- children aged 6--23 months
- pregnant women
- health-care personnel who provide direct patient care
- household contacts and out-of-home caregivers of children aged < 6 months

These groups correspond to tiers 1A--1C in the table of TIV priority groups that was published previously in the event of vaccination supply disruption (4). Beginning October 24, 2005, all persons will be eligible for vaccination.

The tiered use of prioritization is not recommended for LAIV administration. LAIV may be administered at any time for vaccination of nonpregnant healthy persons aged 5--49 years, including most health-care personnel, other persons in close contact with groups at high risk for influenza-related complications, and others desiring protection against influenza (5). Additional information is available at <http://www.cdc.gov/flu>.

References

1. CDC. Updated recommendations from the Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices in response to delays in supply of influenza vaccine for the 2000--01 season. *MMWR* 2000;49:888--92.
2. CDC. Delayed influenza vaccine availability for 2001--02 season and supplemental recommendations of the Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices. *MMWR* 2001;50:582--5.
3. CDC. Interim influenza vaccination recommendations, 2004--05 influenza season. *MMWR* 2004;53:923--4.
4. CDC. Tiered use of inactivated influenza vaccine in the event of a vaccine shortage. *MMWR* 2005;54:749--5).
5. CDC. Prevention and control of influenza: recommendations of the Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices (ACIP). *MMWR* 2005;54(No. RR-8).

Table

TABLE. Influenza vaccine manufacturers and projected supplies for the 2005--06 influenza season

| Manufacturer | Vaccine | Formulation | Contains thimerosal preservative | Age indication | No. of projected doses |
|--------------------------|--|--|----------------------------------|---|------------------------|
| Sanofi Pasteur, Inc. | Fluzone [®] trivalent inactivated influenza vaccine (TIV) | Multidose vial | Yes | ≥6 mos | 60 million* |
| | | Single-dose prefilled 0.5 mL syringe or vial | No | ≥36 mos | |
| | | Single-dose prefilled 0.25 mL syringe | No | 6--35 mos | |
| Chiron Corporation | Fluvirin [™] TIV | Multidose vial | Yes | ≥4 yrs | 18--26 million† |
| | | Single-dose prefilled 0.5 mL syringe | No [§] | ≥4 yrs | |
| GlaxoSmithKline, Inc. | Fluarix [™] TIV | Single-dose prefilled 0.5 mL syringe | No [§] | ≥18 yrs | 8 million |
| MedImmune Vaccines, Inc. | FluMist [™] live, attenuated influenza vaccine (LAIV) | Single-dose nasal sprayer | No | Healthy, nonpregnant persons aged 5--49 yrs | 3 million |

* Approximately 6--8 million of the 60 million doses are projected to be distributed in single-dose prefilled syringes or vials.

† Chiron projects that the majority of its vaccine doses will be distributed by the end of October 2005; the exact timing of distribution was uncertain as of August 30, 2005. A minimal number of doses of Chiron thimerosal-free formulation might be available in late season.

§ These preparations contain traces of thimerosal from the production process.

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