



Charlie Crist
Governor

Ana M. Viamonte Ros, M.D., M.P.H.
State Surgeon General

December 7, 2009

Dear Vaccines for Children (VFC) Program Participants:

Updated Guidances on CSL's™ H1N1 Monovalent Influenza Vaccine and Differentiating Between Seasonal and 2009 H1N1 Live Attenuated Vaccine

The Florida Department of Health (DOH), Bureau of Immunization is providing the following important update from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) regarding the use of CSL's™ 2009 H1N1 monovalent influenza vaccine.

On November 11, 2009, the Food and Drug Administration (FDA) expanded the approved use of CSL's™ 2009 H1N1 monovalent influenza vaccine to include children aged six months and older. The vaccine had previously been approved only for use in adults aged 18 years and older.

Both the CSL™ 2009 H1N1 0.5 mL pre-filled syringe and multi-dose vial vaccine formulations should be reserved for use in individuals aged three years and older if alternative products are available to administer to children aged six months through 35 months. Using the CSL™ 2009 H1N1 0.5 mL pre-filled syringe to vaccinate children aged six months through 35 months would result in wastage of one 0.25 mL dose per syringe.

Enclosed is a copy of the CDC's "Updated Guidance for the Use of CSL™ 2009 H1N1 Monovalent Vaccine." This guidance can be found on the CDC website at: http://www.cdc.gov/H1N1flu/vaccination/csl_guidance.html.

In addition, the CDC issued guidance to assist providers in differentiating between live attenuated seasonal influenza vaccine and the new 2009 H1N1 monovalent vaccine. Enclosed is a copy of the CDC's document "Differentiating Between Live Attenuated Seasonal and 2009 H1N1 Monovalent Influenza Vaccines." Please note that the first paragraph of the document should state the following:

"The pre-filled, single-use sprayers of live attenuated seasonal influenza vaccine (Flumist®) and 2009 H1N1 monovalent influenza vaccine, both manufactured by *MedImmune*, look similar. Healthcare providers who plan to vaccinate patients with a dose of the **intranasal** seasonal influenza vaccine, as well as a dose of the new 2009 H1N1 intranasal vaccine (or vice versa), should be careful to differentiate between the two to avoid administration errors."

Please distribute this important update to colleagues, members, coalitions, and partners who provide immunizations or who have an interest in the promotion of H1N1 and seasonal influenza vaccine. For questions regarding the CDC's recommendations for the use of the vaccines, please contact Laura Rutledge, R.N., Executive Community Health Nursing Director, Bureau of Immunization, at (850) 245-4342. For information regarding the VFC Program's supply of seasonal influenza vaccine, please contact Robert Griffin, VFC Program Coordinator,

VFC Program Participants
Page two
December 7, 2009

or your VFC Program representative at (800) 483-2543. For information regarding the supply of 2009 H1N1 influenza vaccine, please contact the Florida SHOTS Help Desk at (877) 888-7468.

Sincerely,

Signature on file

Charles H. Alexander, Chief
Bureau of Immunization
Division of Disease Control
Florida Department of Health

CHA/rg/sdh
Enclosures

cc: Laura Rutledge, R.N., Executive Community Health Nursing Director,
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