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SUBJ: 2012-2013 ANNUAL INFLUENZA (FLU) IMMUNIZATION PROGRAM A. Civilian Employee Health Care and Occupational Health Program, COMDTINST M12792.3 (series) B. Immunizations and Chemoprophylaxis, COMDTINST M6230.4 (series)

1. The annual flu vaccine is mandatory for all CG active duty (AD) and selected reserve (SELRES) personnel, Child Development Services personnel (including CG certified Family Child Care Providers), and CG civilian, contract and auxiliary healthcare personnel who provide direct patient care in CG Regional Practice clinics (unless granted an exemption). The annual flu vaccine is optional for recreation assistants and aides for youth programs at Borinquen, Cape Cod, Kodiak and Petaluma. After the majority of the mandatory population has been vaccinated, the Health, Safety, Work-Life Regional Practice may issue guidance to vaccinate other eligible populations as indicated by paragraphs 4 and 6.

2. In preparation for the 2012-2013 annual flu vaccine season anticipated quantities were forwarded to the units assigned Regional Pharmacy Executive (RPE) in early 2012. Seasonal flu vaccine supplied by the Defense Logistics Agency (DLA), Philadelphia will be ordered centrally by the Health, Safety, and Work-Life Service Center (HSWL SC) and not individually by each unit.

3. Last years (2011-2012) seasonal flu vaccine may not be used for the 2012-2013 annual flu immunization program. IAW local policy/current Food and Drug Administration (FDA) regulations, properly dispose of any remaining stock of last years vaccine.

4. Eligibility: The highest priority groups are AD, SELRES personnel, deploying civilian employees, Child Development Services personnel (including CG certified Family Child Care Providers), civilian and auxiliary healthcare employees providing direct patient care, and recreation assistants and aides working in youth programs at Borinquen, Cape Cod, Kodiak and Petaluma. Other DEERS-eligible beneficiaries enrolled at CG Regional Practice clinics and deemed high risk by the Centers for Disease and Prevention (CDC) criteria are the next highest priority. Once these priority populations are immunized, CG regional practice clinics may offer the flu vaccine to all other beneficiaries, and then all CG civilian employees as supplies allow.

5. More information on seasonal flu and preventive measures is available at www.cdc.gov/flu.

6. For guidance regarding provisions of health care to civilian employees and for additional information on the Coast Guard Immunization Program, refer to Ref (A) and (B).

7. Units with Independent Duty Health Services Technicians (IDHS) assigned, including Guam, should coordinate procurement with their supporting Regional Practice clinic and RPE.

8. The 2012-2013 flu vaccine information is as follows:

a. Influenza virus vaccine (FLUZONE), USP, 0.50 mil dose, 10 dose vial for immunizing persons 36 months of age and older, contains thimerosal/preservative.

b. Influenza virus vaccine (FLUZONE), USP, 0.50 mil dose, prefilled syringe unit, 10s for immunizing persons 36 months of age and older, thimerosal/preservative free.

c. Influenza virus vaccine (FLUZONE), USP, 0.25 mil dose, prefilled syringe unit, 10s for immunizing persons 6 months to 35 months of age, thimerosal/preservative free.

d. Influenza virus vaccine (AFLURIA), USP, 0.50 mil dose, 10 dose vial for immunizing persons 5 years and older, contains thimerosal/preservative.

e. Influenza virus vaccine (AFLURIA), USP, 0.50 mil dose, prefilled syringe unit, 10s for immunizing persons 5 years and older, thimerosal/preservative free.

f. Influenza virus vaccine, live, attenuated, nasal spray (FLUMIST), trivalent, 0.2 dose, prefilled single use sprayer, 10s for immunizing 2-49 years of age, thimerosal/preservative free.

9. Medimmune will only ship in increments of 50 doses or more.

Medimmune will contact each facility prior to shipping of the vaccine.

10. Note change in shipping procedure: all CONUS and OCONUS shipments of flu vaccine, which include injectable and intranasal dosage forms, will include a temperature monitoring device (TEMPTALE) that is to be deactivated upon receipt and forwarded immediately to DLA for reading. Instructions for return will be included in the flu vaccine shipments. All units will comply to this requirement or vaccine may not be released for use.

11. FLUMIST is not authorized for aviation personnel.

12. FLUMIST receiving instructions: carefully follow the receiving and inspection requirements included in the shipment. Document the date/time that the container was opened and compare it to the date/time stamp on the container. If greater than 72 hours, do not use the product. Do not freeze the product. Units are to immediately store FLUMIST in a refrigerator upon receipt of shipment.

13. Seasonal flu vaccines are available for eligible TRICARE beneficiaries by any TRICARE authorized provider through one of the participating network pharmacies at no cost to the beneficiary. To locate a participating pharmacy visit:

<http://www.express-scrips.com/tricare/> or call 1-877-363-1303. AD and SELRES members who choose to obtain their seasonal flu vaccine through this avenue must obtain flu vaccine immunization documentation, including lot number, expiration date and type of vaccine used (with or without preservative) at the time of the immunization and forward to their respective CG medical facility in a timely manner for documentation into the Medical Readiness Reporting System (MRRS).

14. MRRS coding for 2012-2013 flu season: As in last years message, injectable vaccine will have two different codes that will be utilized.

a. CVX Code 140 - For documenting single-dose injectable units, these are made without thimerosal as a preservative because they are intended to be opened and used only once (Fluzone)

b. CVX Code 141 - For documenting multidose injectable products, these are made with a preservative (Fluzone)

c. CVX Code 111 - For documenting a single-dose Intranasal, live-attenuated, vaccine (the nasal spray vaccine) does not contain thimerosal (Flumist) 15. For AD and SELRES personnel receiving the flu vaccine

through the TRICARE pharmacy benefit, their vaccine information will be automatically transferred into DEERS. Regional Practice clinic staff and health services personnel must upload vaccine information into MRRS via the following method:

- a. Go to the IMMUNE tab in MRRS.
- b. Select DEERS in the align column (for influenza).
- c. Select ADD to flu immunization date.

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17. CAPT Deborah Noyes, Chief, Office of Health Services, sends.

18. Internet release authorized.

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