2008 CDC/ACIP Flu Recommendations (10/08)


This report updates the 2007 recommendations by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention’s (CDC) Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices (ACIP) regarding the use of influenza vaccine and antiviral agents. The 2008 recommendations include new and updated information. Principal updates and changes include 1) a new recommendation that annual vaccination be administered to all children aged 5–18 years, beginning in the 2008–09 influenza season, if feasible, but no later than the 2009–10 influenza season; 2) a recommendation that annual vaccination of all children aged 6 months through 4 years (59 months) continue to be a primary focus of vaccination efforts because these children are at higher risk for influenza complications compared with older children; 3) a new recommendation that either trivalent inactivated influenza vaccine or live, attenuated influenza vaccine (LAIV) be used when vaccinating healthy persons aged 2 through 49 years (the previous recommendation was to administer LAIV to person aged 5–49 years); 4) a recommendation that vaccines containing the 2008–09 trivalent vaccine virus strains A/Brisbane/59/2007 (H1N1)-like, A/Brisbane/10/2007 (H3N2)-like, and B/Florida/4/2006-like antigens be used; and, 5) new information on antiviral resistance among influenza viruses in the United States. Vaccination and health-care providers should be alert to announcements of recommendation updates and should check the CDC influenza Web site (http://www.cdc.gov/flu) periodically for additional information.

DECS Comment: Influenza (the flu) is a contagious respiratory illness caused by influenza viruses and typically occurs during the winter. It can cause mild to severe illness, and at times can lead to death. Each year in the United States, on average:

- 5% to 20% of the population gets the flu;
- More than 200,000 people are hospitalized from flu complications; and
- About 36,000 people die from flu.

Influenza vaccination of both health care personnel and patients combined with basic infection control practices can help prevent outbreaks. Additional information is available on the DECS Infection Control Web page (see Fact Sheets) including links to CDC materials that may be useful in your facilities alerting patients and visitors to inform health-care personnel if they are experiencing any symptoms of a respiratory infection and to practice respiratory hygiene and cough etiquette.