POLICY FOR INFLUENZA VACCINE USE FOR THE 2015-2016 INFLUENZA SEASON

1. THIS MESSAGE HAS BEEN COORDINATED WITH HEADQUARTERS MARINE CORPS, HEALTH SERVICES AND U.S. FLEET FORCES COMMAND, SURGEON’S OFFICE. TRANSMISSION TO MARINE CORPS AND FLEET ACTIVITIES HAS BEEN AUTHORIZED.

2. GOALS. PER REF A, THE NAVY’S SEASONAL INFLUENZA VACCINATION GOAL IS TO MEET 90 PERCENT IMMUNIZATION OF ALL ACTIVE AND RESERVE COMPONENT PERSONNEL BY 15 DECEMBER 2015, AND 100 PERCENT VACCINE ACCESS TOTAL FOR NAVY FAMILY (INCLUDES DEPENDENTS, OTHER BENEFICIARIES AND DEPARTMENT OF THE NAVY CIVILIANS). THE VACCINE SHOULD BE USED IMMEDIATELY THROUGH AGGRESSIVE IMMUNIZATION CAMPAIGNS AND SHOT EXERCISES.

3. CHIEF BUMED’S INTENT:
   A. ROUTINE ANNUAL INFLUENZA VACCINATION IS RECOMMENDED FOR ALL PERSONS AGED 6 MONTHS AND OLDER AND MANDATORY FOR ALL ACTIVE AND RESERVE COMPONENT PERSONNEL. MORE THAN ONE MILLION INFLUENZA VACCINE DOSES HAVE BEEN PROCURED TO PROTECT SERVICE MEMBERS, OTHER BENEFICIARIES AND DEPARTMENT OF THE NAVY CIVILIANS.
   B. MTFS IN RECEIPT OF THE 2015-2016 SEASONAL INFLUENZA VACCINE SHALL PROVIDE ACCESS TO ANY TRICARE BENEFICIARY PRESENTING FOR IMMUNIZATION REGARDLESS OF LOCAL ENROLLMENT OR HEALTH-STATUS PRIORITIZATION. ALL RESERVISTS WHO PRESENT VALID MILITARY IDENTIFICATION SHOULD ALSO RECEIVE THE INFLUENZA VACCINE.

4. INFLUENZA VACCINE PRIORITIES. INFLUENZA VACCINATION PRIORITIES ARE INTENDED TO SUPPORT MISSION READINESS AND PROTECT VULNERABLE POPULATIONS. USE THE
FIRST AVAILABLE VACCINE TO IMMUNIZE THE FOLLOWING GROUPS:
A. MILITARY AND CIVILIAN PERSONNEL ORDERED TO DEPLOY IN SUPPORT OF AN OPERATIONAL REQUIREMENT OR ASSIGNED TO ANY SHIP.
B. MEDICALLY HIGH RISK INDIVIDUALS, HEALTHCARE WORKERS INVOLVED IN DIRECT PATIENT CARE, AND NAVY CIVILIAN PERSONNEL WITH INFLUENZA VACCINATION WRITTEN IN THEIR POSITION DESCRIPTION AS A CONDITION OF EMPLOYMENT.
   (1) PER REF B, DOD MTFS MUST DOCUMENT AND RECORD THE VACCINATION OR EXEMPTION OF EACH CIVILIAN HEALTHCARE WORKER IN DIRECT PATIENT CARE, AS DEFINED BY REF C.
   (2) NAVY MTFS SHALL REPORT COMPLIANCE WITH REF B, VIA THEIR COGNIZANT NAVY MEDICINE REGION, NO LATER THAN 1 APRIL 2016.
C. BASIC AND ADVANCED TRAINEES, OFFICER TRAINEES, MIDSHIPMEN, AND THE TRAINING CADRE OF THESE PERSONNEL.
D. ALL OTHER MILITARY PERSONNEL.
E. ALL OTHER CONTINUITY OF OPERATIONS DOD CIVILIAN AND CONTRACT EMPLOYEES.
F. ALL OTHER ELIGIBLE BENEFICIARIES AND DOD CIVILIANS. UNLESS SIGNIFICANT SHORTAGES EXIST, ELIGIBLE BENEFICIARIES AND CIVILIANS WILL NOT BE DENIED THE INFLUENZA VACCINE UPON REQUEST.
6. VACCINES WILL BE ADMINISTERED PER THE FOLLOWING GUIDELINES.
   A. PER REF D, COMMANDS SHALL ADMINISTER AND FOLLOW ROUTINE IMMUNIZATION RECOMMENDATIONS FROM THE CENTERS FOR DISEASE CONTROL AND PREVENTION, THE ADVISORY COMMITTEE ON IMMUNIZATION PRACTICES, AND THE PRESCRIBING INFORMATION IN THE MANUFACTURERS' PACKAGE INSERTS.
   B. FOR SERVICE MEMBERS IN AN ACTIVE FLYING STATUS (DIFOPS) EXPOSED TO ALTITUDE AS PART OF THEIR CAREER FIELD, INJECTABLE VACCINE IS PREFERRED FOR ITS SHORTER POST-ADMINISTRATION GROUNDING PERIOD (12 VERSUS 72 HOURS) AND MILD SIDE EFFECT PROFILE. PERSONNEL IN AN ACTIVE FLYING STATUS WITH ROUTINE EXPOSURE TO ALTITUDE WILL OBSERVE THE GROUNDING PERIOD GUIDANCE PROVIDED IN SECTION 18.5, NAVY AEROMEDICAL REFERENCE AND WAIVER GUIDE.
   C. SERVICE MEMBERS IN AN ACTIVE DIVING STATUS ARE AUTHORIZED TO RECEIVE INTRANASAL VACCINE; HOWEVER, INJECTABLE VACCINE REMAINS THE PREFERRED VACCINE.
7. COLD CHAIN MANAGEMENT. TEMPERATURE MONITORS WILL BE IN ALL INFLUENZA VACCINE SHIPMENTS. EACH SHIPMENT WILL CONTAIN A HANDLING SHEET WITH INSTRUCTIONS FOR RETURNING ALARMED AND NO-ALARM TEMPERATURE MONITORS. IF THE SHIPMENT IS IN AN ALARMED STATUS, THE VACCINE CANNOT BE USED UNTIL THE TEMPERATURE MONITOR IS RECEIVED AND DISPOSITION IS PROVIDED BY DEFENSE LOGISTICS AGENCY TROOP SUPPORT BRANCH (DLA-TSB). PROMPT RETURN OF ALL TEMPERATURE MONITORS IS CRITICAL. DISPOSITION FOR ALARMED TEMPERATURE MONITORS WILL BE PROVIDED BY DLA-TSB WITHIN 24 HOURS OF THEIR RECEIPT OF THE MONITOR.
   A. WHEN THE VACCINE HAS BEEN POTENTIALLY COMPROMISED POST-RECEIPT (E.G., REFRIGERATOR MALFUNCTION), CONTACT NAVAL MEDICAL LOGISTICS COMMAND (NMLC) AND YOUR DEFENSE HEALTH AGENCY, IMMUNIZATION HEALTHCARE BRANCH SPECIALIST. COMPLETE THE POTENTIALLY COMPROMISED VACCINE EVENTS WORKSHEET LOCATED AT HTTP://WWW.VACCINES.MIL/DOCUMENTS/1808_PC-TSM.PDF. RETURN THE VACCINE IMMEDIATELY TO PROPER REFRIGERATION AND DLA-TSB WILL PROVIDE DISPOSITION AS SOON AS POSSIBLE AFTER RECEIVING THE WORKSHEET VIA THE DEFENSE HEALTH AGENCY, IMMUNIZATION HEALTHCARE BRANCH.
   B. UNITS ARE ADVISED TO KEEP AN APPROPRIATE QUANTITY OF INSULATED SHIPPING
BOCES AND GEL PACKS ON HAND FOR LOCAL SHIPPING NEEDS THROUGHOUT THE SEASON.

ALL PERSONNEL PERFORMING TRANS-SHIPMENT OF THE VACCINE NEED TO BE TRAINED BY DLA AND MUST CONTACT DLA-TSB PRIOR TO TRANS-SHIPMENT.

C. INFLUENZA VACCINE ORDERS FOR NAVY AND MARINE CORPS RESERVE COMMANDS WILL BE SHIPPED DIRECTLY TO THE RESERVE COMMANDS AND NOT TO THEIR ALIGNED MTF.

RESERVE COMMANDS MUST ADHERE TO COLD CHAIN REQUIREMENTS.

8. VACCINE DISTRIBUTION. THE SINGLE SOURCE OF INFLUENZA VACCINE IS THE ESTABLISHED DOD CENTRALIZED DISTRIBUTION SYSTEM, COORDINATED AND CONTROLLED BY NMLC. VIALS IS THE REQUISITION SYSTEM TOOL FOR SEASONAL AND EMERGING INFLUENZA VACCINES. VIALS SIMPLIFIES VACCINE REQUISITIONS AND ENABLES COMMANDS TO TRACK VACCINE ORDERS ELECTRONICALLY FROM REQUISITION TO RECEIPT.
COORDINATE ORDERS FOR ADDITIONAL VACCINE THROUGH VIALS. ALL SUBSEQUENT REQUISITIONS SUBMITTED WILL BE REVIEWED BY NMLC AND DLA-TSB. SUBSTITUTIONS MAY BE MADE TO ENSURE EQUITABLE DISTRIBUTION OF INFLUENZA VACCINE WHEN AND WHERE NEEDED. CLOSE COORDINATION BETWEEN ACTIVITY SUPPLY AND LOGISTIC OFFICERS WITH NMLC AND DLA-TSB IS REQUIRED.

9. INTRANASAL CONSIDERATIONS. THE MANUFACTURER'S REPLACEMENT PROGRAM ALLOWS UNITS TO EXCHANGE EXPIRING INTRANASAL VACCINE FOR NEWLY MANUFACTURED VACCINE WITH 2015 EXPIRATION DATES. THE REPLACEMENT PROGRAM IS AVAILABLE FOR ALL INTRANASAL VACCINES SHIPPED PRIOR TO 31 JANUARY 2016. CONTACT NMLC FOR ADDITIONAL INFORMATION.

10. IMMUNIZATION DOCUMENTATION:

A. SENIOR LEADERSHIP MAINTAINS A HIGH INTEREST IN THE PROGRESS OF THE INFLUENZA VACCINE CAMPAIGN. MEDICAL READINESS REPORTING SYSTEM (MRRS) WILL BE USED TO ENTER VACCINATION STATUS AND MONITOR COMPLIANCE FOR MILITARY PERSONNEL.

B. PER REF D, DOCUMENTATION SHOULD INCLUDE THE DATE THE VACCINE WAS ADMINISTERED, VACCINE NAME OR CODE, MANUFACTURER, LOT NUMBER, DOSE, VACCINE ADMINISTRATION ROUTE, AND ANATOMIC SITE.

C. THE CODES (CVX) TO DOCUMENT VACCINE ADMINISTRATION CAN BE FOUND ON THE VIALS WEBSITE AT:
THE:GOV ONLY.NMLC.MED.NAVY.MIL/INT_CODE03/VIALS/DOCS/INFLUENZA%20VACCINES%20FOR%20DIFFERENT%20AGE%20GROUPS%202015-16_23%20JUL%2015.PDF. CVX CODES 15, 16, AND 111 SHOULD NOT BE USED TO DOCUMENT VACCINE ADMINISTRATION IN THE 2015-2016 INFLUENZA SEASON.

11. ADDITIONAL FOOD AND DRUG ADMINISTRATION (FDA) APPROVED INFLUENZA VACCINES (E.G., HIGH DOSE, INTRADERMAL) ARE NOT AVAILABLE THROUGH THE DOD CENTRAL PURCHASING CONTRACTS OR PRIME VENDOR PROGRAM. THESE VACCINES MAY BE PURCHASED VIA DIRECT VENDOR BUYS AND COMMANDS ARE RESPONSIBLE FOR ALL COSTS INVOLVED IF THESE VACCINES ARE CHOSEN.

12. A VACCINE INFORMATION STATEMENT (VIS) FOR EACH VACCINE SHALL BE MADE AVAILABLE FOR RECIPIENTS OF THE VACCINE:
HTTP://WWW.CDC.GOV/VACCINES/HCP/VIS/INDEX.HTML?S_CID=CS 748.

13. TRICARE VACCINE PROGRAM. BENEFICIARIES MAY RECEIVE INFLUENZA VACCINES FOR ZERO COPAYMENT AT PARTICIPATING RETAIL NETWORK PHARMACIES. SERVICE MEMBERS WHO RECEIVE INFLUENZA VACCINATIONS FROM RETAIL NETWORK PHARMACIES WILL PROVIDE DOCUMENTATION OF IMMUNIZATION NO LATER THAN THE NEXT DUTY OR DRILL DAY FOLLOWING VACCINATION.

14. ADDITIONAL RESOURCES:

A. NMLC INVENTORY MANAGEMENT SPECIALIST, MS. LOUISE MCLUCA, COMM: 301-619-8054, DSN: 343-8054. E-MAIL: SARAH.L.MCLUCA.CIV(AT)MAIL.MIL

B. DLA-TSB, COLD CHAIN AND VACCINE PROGRAM MANAGER, MS. DANA DALLAS COMM: 215-737-5537; DSN: 444-5537, E-MAIL: DANA.DALLAS(AT)DLA.MIL.

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