

TPA Communications

From: TPA Communications [communications@tnpharm.org]
Sent: Friday, November 18, 2005 11:27 AM
To: broadcast@tnpharm.org
Subject: Immunizers: 1) Survey - Response Needed by 11/21 2) Q&A

To: TPA Members: Immunizers

1) **Your Response Needed by November 21: What are you experiencing during this year's influenza season?**

The American Pharmacists Association and the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) are conducting a survey to determine your current experiences related to the 2005 influenza season. Similar surveys are being conducted by other vaccine provider groups. The assistance you provide by completing this brief survey about ordering, obtaining, and administering influenza vaccine will be appreciated. Survey results will be reported only in the aggregate (no individual, identifiable information will be reported).

To take the survey, please visit <http://fs16.formsite.com/APhA/2005influenzavaccine/index.html> by November 21.

2) **Questions & Answers: Vaccine Supply and Prioritization Recommendations for the U.S. 2005-06 Influenza Season**

The CDC has developed a question and answer document to help you answer questions you may be receiving from patients: <http://www.cdc.gov/flu/about/qa/0506supply.htm>. Among the questions/answers is the following information:

"There have been reports in the news of providers who have not received much influenza vaccine and have used up all of their vaccine supplies. Why is this happening?"

While many communities and providers appear to have ample supplies of influenza vaccine, some providers have not received much influenza vaccine and have already used most or all of their influenza vaccine supplies and other providers may have not yet received any vaccine.

The total amount of vaccine expected to be available in the United States this season (over 80 million doses) is enough to meet past consumer demand which has usually been around 70-75 million doses. However, it is possible that in some communities current demand for vaccine is exceeding what we have seen in previous years (perhaps due to increased media attention on avian influenza, or "bird flu", or concerns resulting from last year's vaccine shortage). CDC is currently taking steps to assess consumer demand for vaccine this season.

In addition, Chiron Corporation recently announced that it will not be able to produce as much vaccine as it originally anticipated. Thus, providers and distributors who ordered from Chiron will receive substantially less vaccine than they had ordered.

Delays in the distribution of some of the country's flu vaccine means some people will have to wait until late November or early December to get their influenza vaccination. CDC is working with the vaccine companies and distributors to assess where the remaining vaccine is going, so that as many providers serving priority patients can receive some vaccine.

To help you stay informed of important developments, the Tennessee Pharmacists Association is pleased to provide you with legislative, healthcare-related, regulatory and other notices as a benefit of membership.

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