



DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES

Office of the Secretary

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Assistant Secretary for Health
Office of Public Health and Science
Washington D.C. 20201

TO: Surgeon General

FROM: Acting Assistant Secretary for Health

SUBJECT: Commissioned Corps Personnel Policy Memorandum (PPM) 05-004
Internal Guidance of Influenza Vaccination for Commissioned Corps
Officers during the 2004-05 Influenza Season

Due to the unexpected shortage of influenza vaccine in the United States this season, I have determined the Commissioned Corps will follow the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC)'s "2004-05 Interim Influenza Vaccination Recommendations" that were published October 21, 2004.

The CDC recommends that existing influenza vaccine supplies should be administered to those who are at greatest risk for serious complications from influenza disease. It is recommended that officers seek vaccination if they meet the following criteria:

- Are 65 years of age and older;
- Individuals with chronic lung or heart disorders including heart disease and asthma;
- Are pregnant or will be pregnant during the influenza season;
- Have chronic metabolic diseases (including diabetes), kidney disease, blood disorders (such as sickle cell anemia), or weakened immune systems, including persons with HIV/AIDS;
- Serving as health-care workers providing direct, hands-on care to patients during influenza season; and
- Laboratorians who may come into contact with avian influenza viruses are encouraged to seek vaccination. Although this is an exception to the ACIP interim recommendations, the CDC has recommended its implementation to reduce the possibility that a laboratory worker could be simultaneously infected by both an avian influenza virus and a human influenza virus.

Officers meeting the above criteria to receive influenza vaccinations are encouraged to speak with their primary care provider to determine possible avenues for vaccination.

Officers who may be deployed to a community with a known influenza outbreak or respiratory outbreak of unknown etiology, and who have not received the influenza vaccine, should seek medical consultation regarding use of appropriate antiviral medications for chemoprophylaxis prior to deployment.

Thank you for your adherence to this policy.

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