



- Please bring to the attention of all doctors -

Date: 11 May 2010

Contact telephone number: 8226-7177 (24 hours/7 days)

Influenza vaccination update

Availability influenza vaccine in the private market

Australia is currently experiencing a limited supply of the influenza vaccine for the private market, particularly for the CSL product Fluvax®. This is a result of manufacturing issues with the 2010 seasonal influenza vaccine, as well as a global commitment to manufacture and distribute 200 million doses of H1N1 vaccine, and the recent eruption of the Eyjafjallajökull volcano in Iceland resulting in delayed shipments from European vaccine manufacturers.

We are anticipating large supplies of Vaxigrip® (Sanofi) to be available in South Australia as of the week commencing Monday 24 May 2010, and there are already very small supplies of the Solvay product Influvac® in the state.

GPs are advised to write generic scripts for influenza vaccines to allow pharmacists to supply whatever brand of influenza vaccine they have available.

There are adequate supplies of influenza vaccine for the Government funded program for priority groups.

Continued suspension of seasonal influenza vaccination program for children aged 5 years and under

The national evaluation of cases of fever and febrile convulsions in young children following a seasonal flu vaccination are still being investigated by the Therapeutic Goods administration (TGA) and immunisation experts.

Medical practitioners are reminded that the seasonal influenza vaccine (first or second dose) should not be given to children aged 5 years and under.

With the onset of the flu season expected to occur shortly, we urge everyone over 5 years of age to still consider having the influenza vaccination this year, especially those who are vulnerable to complications from the flu.

Free pandemic H1N1 influenza vaccine is available as a partial alternative flu vaccine and can be given to anyone older than 6 months of age.

Please contact the Communicable Disease Control Branch on 08 8226 7177 (24hours/7days) for any enquiries or advice.

Dr Ann Koehler – Director, Communicable Disease Control Branch

Information contained within this advice should be treated as confidential and is for the intended recipient only.