

**Contact: L. J. Tan
National Influenza Vaccine Summit
(312) 464-4147**

**PARTNERS OF THE NATIONAL INFLUENZA VACCINE SUMMIT APPLAUDS
NATIONAL INFLUENZA VACCINATION WEEK**

**Summit Lauds HHS For New Initiative To Promote Influenza Immunization Beyond
Thanksgiving**

ATLANTA, GA, November 13, 2006 – The National Influenza Vaccine Summit, an initiative co-sponsored by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention and the American Medical Association, which includes representatives from influenza vaccine research, production, distribution, public health and medical providers, strongly supports the adoption of the week after Thanksgiving as a National Influenza Vaccination Week (NIVW). The Summit also urges that this initiative be carried out every annual influenza season to remind Americans that there are substantial medical benefits to receiving influenza vaccination after Thanksgiving.

“Influenza is a very serious illness and the best way to protect yourself and the ones you love is to get vaccinated,” said L.J Tan, MS, PhD, Director, Infectious Diseases, American Medical Association, speaking as Co-Chair of the Summit. “While October and November are the optimal times for getting vaccinated, people who have not gotten vaccinated by that time will still benefit from vaccination in December and January as influenza doesn’t peak until February or later during most years.

“This season, 77 million doses of vaccine have already been distributed and by the end of December, we expect to have about 115 million doses. We urge all providers to vaccinate every individual who wants to be protected against influenza into December, January, and beyond.

“With the upcoming holiday season, Summit partners pledge to work with the CDC and HHS to get as many people as possible vaccinated so that they can enjoy the holiday season free from influenza and start the New Year with New Year resolutions, not influenza. The Summit has already established the Influenza Vaccine Availability Tracking System to help providers locate sources of vaccine, is creating an online toolkit to assist providers with vaccinating after Thanksgiving, and will be planning regional vaccination activities during the National Influenza Vaccination Week to promote immunization.”

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About the Influenza Vaccine

The influenza vaccine saves lives, particularly among America's high-risk population. According to the CDC, in an average season influenza kills 36,000 people and hospitalizes more than 200,000 nationwide, with five to 20 percent of the population contracting the disease. Older people, young children and people with certain health conditions are at high risk for serious influenza complications.

In general, anyone who wants to reduce his or her chances of contracting influenza can receive a vaccination. However, certain people should be vaccinated each year, including the following groups:

Vaccination against influenza is recommended for all persons who meet any of the criteria below:

- Age 50 years or older
- Age 6 to 59 months
- Having any of the following conditions:
 - A chronic disorder of the pulmonary or cardiovascular system, including asthma
 - A chronic disease of the blood or kidneys, immunosuppression (eg, caused by medications, HIV), or diabetes that has required medical follow-up or hospitalization in the preceding year
 - Compromised ability to handle respiratory secretions or an increased risk for aspiration (eg, cognitive dysfunction, spinal cord injury, seizure disorder, or other neuromuscular disorder)
 - A woman who will be pregnant during the influenza season
 - A child or teenager receiving long-term aspirin therapy
- Residence in a nursing home or other chronic-care facility
- Likely to transmit influenza to persons at high risk, including
 - Healthcare workers, caregivers, or household members in contact with persons having high-risk conditions
 - Household contacts or out-of-home caretakers of children age 0 through 59 months

Vaccination against influenza is also recommended for any other person age 6 months or older wishing to reduce the likelihood of becoming ill with influenza should be vaccinated.

About the National Influenza Vaccine Summit

Now in its sixth year, the National Influenza Vaccine Summit includes representatives from influenza vaccine research, production, distribution and administration focusing on issues that are important to achieve the Healthy People 2010 goals. The Summit meets regularly to identify and prioritize vaccination issues and develop recommendations to enhance vaccination efforts for future seasons. At the 2006 Summit meetings, attendees included representatives from advisory committees; advocacy groups; business; community vaccinators; consumers; hospitals; international government agencies; long-term care; medical organizations; the news media; nursing organizations; occupational health; pharmacists; private health insurance and managed care; quality improvement; state and local public health; U.S. government agencies; vaccine distributors; and vaccine manufacturers. For more information on the National Influenza Vaccine Summit, visit the Summit's Web site at <http://www.ama-assn.org/go/influenzasummit>.

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