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Jim Doyle Governor

Karen E. Timberlake Secretary

Date: March 28, 2010

To: Users of State Supplied 2009 H1N1 Vaccine

From: Daniel Hopfensperger, Director

Wisconsin Immunization Program

Subject: 2009 H1N1 Influenza Vaccine Storage, Use and Return

The purpose of this letter is to address a number of concerns related to storage, use and return of 2009 H1N1 influenza vaccine. Below you will find questions and answers concerning the continued use and storage of monovalent 2009 H1N1 influenza vaccine.

Can we continue to order 2009 H1N1 influenza vaccine? Yes, H1N1 monovalent vaccine is still available and can be ordered using the same ordering system that you used during the outbreak.

Should we continue to vaccinate? Yes. Additional 2009 H1N1 influenza activity (i.e. "third wave") is possible through spring and summer of 2010, or in early fall 2010 when the 2010-11 trivalent influenza vaccine may not yet be available. Although the 2010-11 seasonal trivalent influenza vaccine will contain a 2009 H1N1-like influenza A strain, the timing of its production and availability is not yet known.

CDC recommends that providers continue to vaccinate individuals against H1N1 until seasonal vaccine is available, especially those at high risk and for those in whom a second dose is recommended. High risk and ethnic/minority populations should be targeted along with anyone requesting vaccine.

How should providers handle 2009 H1N1 vaccine that is expired or about to expire? Providers should check expiration dates. All multi-dose vials and the Novartis single dose pre-filled syringes can be returned to DPH prior to expiration for disposal. All other presentations can be returned to DPH after expiration. Specific disposal guidelines are posted on our pandemic website at: http://pandemic.wisconsin.gov/category.asp?linkcatid=3147&linkid=903&locid=106

How should providers handle Sanofi Pasteur 2009 H1N1 vaccine that expires next year? Some of the 2009 H1N1 influenza vaccine has a lengthy expiration date. Sanofi Pasteur multidose vials (MDV), specifically, have expiration dates in 2011. Viable 2009 H1N1 Sanofi Pasteur MDV should not be destroyed until 2010-11 seasonal vaccine (which will contain 2009 H1N1 strain) is widely available. It should be stored in the event there is a resurgence of disease before the 2010-2011 seasonal vaccine is available.

Should the long-dated 2009 H1N1 influenza vaccine be used instead of 2010-2011 seasonal influenza vaccine? The 2010-2011 seasonal vaccine will contain two other strains in addition to the 2009 H1N1 strain. For this reason the 2009 H1N1monovalent vaccine will not be considered a substitute for the seasonal trivalent vaccine. It would only be used in the event of resurgence in disease before the 2010-2011 seasonal vaccine is widely available.

What should providers do with excess viable 2009 H1N1 monovalent vaccine? Providers who wish to maintain a supply and have adequate storage capacity in the event of a resurgence of 2009 H1N1 disease before the 2010-2011 trivalent vaccine is widely available may do so. Because providers may want to free up their refrigerator storage, we will develop procedures for accepting viable vaccine back from providers. This will include assuring vaccine viability and cold chain integrity. Return of excess vaccine should not occur before July 15, 2010. Prior to that date we will send instruction for the return of viable excess vaccine.

Can unused or expired 2009 H1N1 monovalent vaccine be sent back to McKesson? Unused or expired vaccine should not be sent back to McKesson. Specific disposal guidelines are posted on our pandemic website at:

http://pandemic.wisconsin.gov/category.asp?linkcatid=3147&linkid=903&locid=106