



HEALTH AFFAIRS

THE ASSISTANT SECRETARY OF DEFENSE

WASHINGTON, D. C. 20301-1200

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MEMORANDUM FOR ASSISTANT SECRETARY OF THE ARMY (M&RA)
ASSISTANT SECRETARY OF THE NAVY (M&RA)
ASSISTANT SECRETARY OF THE AIR FORCE (M&RA)
USCG, DIRECTOR OF HEALTH AND SAFETY

SUBJECT: Policy Guidance for FluMist Influenza Vaccine

The Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) has been aggressively seeking ways to increase the availability of trivalent inactivated influenza vaccine (TIV) for the medically high-risk population of the United States. The Secretary of HHS recently requested that the Department of Defense (DoD) review the use of the live attenuated influenza vaccine (LAIV) FluMist for vaccination of low-risk individuals. Since much of DoD's at-risk population fits into the category of healthy, non-pregnant, 5- to 49-year-olds, we have agreed to increase DoD's use of LAIV to this population. This year, we will purchase an additional 200,000 doses of FluMist (for a total of 450,000 doses), which will in turn free an additional 200,000 doses of Aventis' TIV for HHS to distribute to medically high-risk Americans. The DoD will continue to vaccinate our own medically high-risk population with the TIV as outlined in the influenza vaccine policy guidance issued last week.

The Defense Supply Center Philadelphia (DSCP) has modified its customary cost recovery rate to improve the affordability of FluMist vaccine for the Services. Please ensure you have modified your influenza vaccine plans to maximally utilize the use of LAIV. As the indications and procedures for administering LAIV are different from TIV, please also ensure FluMist is administered according to all label recommendations. While I understand this may present new challenges for us, this action will improve the overall availability of vaccine for the nation, while minimally impacting DoD's ability to protect our forces. My point of contact for this matter is LTC(P) Steve Phillips, 703-575-2669 (Stephen.phillips@ha.osd.mil).

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cc:

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