



## American College Health Association

Centers for Disease Control  
and Prevention (CDC)  
Atlanta GA 30333  
October 10, 2006

Dear U.S. Residential Colleges and Universities:

The 2006-2007 influenza season is fast approaching. Influenza is a serious respiratory disease that is spread primarily through coughing and sneezing, and approximately 36,000 Americans die of influenza-related illness each year. Even for those who are healthy, influenza can cause fever, cough, body aches, headaches, and other symptoms that may last a week or more and result in missed classes, assignments, exams, or work days. In addition, college students can spread influenza in the community and even expose their own family members, some of whom may be at risk of complications, such as the elderly or very young. Vaccination of college students and staff is the best way to prevent influenza on college campuses and their surrounding communities.

The supply of influenza vaccine this season is anticipated to exceed the amount of doses available in prior years. Based on discussions with influenza vaccine manufacturers and the Food and Drug Administration, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention's (CDC) best projection is that about 110-115 million doses of influenza vaccine will be produced for the 2006-2007 influenza season.

Influenza vaccination should be particularly encouraged for students that live in residential housing and for students and their close contacts (e.g., roommates, family members) who have medical conditions that may increase their risk of influenza-related complications (CDC, "Prevention and Control of Influenza: Recommendations of the Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices." *Morbidity and Mortality Weekly Report [Recommendations and Reports]*, July 28, 2006/55 [RR10]; 1-42). Such conditions include chronic disorders of the pulmonary or cardiovascular systems (e.g., asthma), chronic metabolic diseases (e.g., diabetes mellitus), renal dysfunction, hemoglobinopathies, or immunodeficiency, as well as any disorder that can compromise respiratory function. Close contacts of children less than 5 years of age and adults 65 years of age and older are also recommended for vaccination. In addition, any student wanting to decrease the risk of influenza illness should get vaccinated.

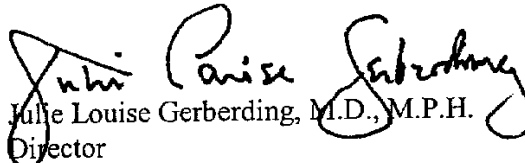
The following strategies can be used to provide influenza vaccine to college students and staff who desire vaccination:


- Make influenza vaccine available on campus and offer it routinely to students during all health clinic visits, particularly those with high risk conditions and their contacts. The vaccine should also be made available to healthcare workers in the student health service and other college staff who desire vaccination.

- Schedule vaccination clinics during November to help ensure vaccine supplies are available to coincide with planned vaccination clinics. Planners are also encouraged to schedule at least one clinic in December since many persons recommended for vaccination will not have been vaccinated at earlier clinics.
- Educate parents on the risks and benefits of influenza vaccination for young adults.
- Advertise vaccination clinic times and locations widely.
- Encourage late season vaccination of students who travel internationally to areas of the world where seasonal flu may still persist (e.g., lower hemisphere during U.S. summer periods).

CDC and the American College Health Association (ACHA) realize that these measures have resource implications for colleges and universities; however, offering influenza vaccine to students and staff can help prevent illness and minimize the disruption of routine activities. Vaccine Information Statements for both the inactivated (killed) influenza vaccine and the live nasal influenza vaccine are available at [www.cdc.gov/nip/publications/VIS/default.htm](http://www.cdc.gov/nip/publications/VIS/default.htm). Should you have any questions or need additional information on influenza illness or vaccination, please visit CDC's website ([www.cdc.gov](http://www.cdc.gov)), ACHA's website ([www.acha.org](http://www.acha.org)), or contact your state or local health department.

Sincerely,

  
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