

September 9, 2014

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| DIRECTIVE: | JOB CORPS INFORMATION NOTICE NO. 14-10 |
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TO: ALL JOB CORPS NATIONAL OFFICE STAFF
ALL JOB CORPS REGIONAL OFFICE STAFF
ALL JOB CORPS CENTER DIRECTORS
ALL JOB CORPS CENTER OPERATORS
ALL NATIONAL TRAINING AND SUPPORT CONTRACTORS
ALL OUTREACH, ADMISSIONS, AND CTS CONTRACTORS

FROM: LENITA JACOBS-SIMMONS
Acting National Director
Office of Job Corps

SUBJECT: Influenza Information Update

1. Purpose. To inform Job Corps centers of influenza prevention, testing, and treatment, based on the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention's (CDC) most recent recommendations.
2. Background. Every influenza season has the potential to cause significant illness, increased health-care utilization, hospitalization, and death. The CDC encourages vaccination against seasonal influenza as soon as vaccines become available.

Flu vaccines are designed to protect against the viruses experts predict will be most common in the upcoming season. Three viruses that commonly circulate: influenza A (H1N1) viruses; influenza A (H3N2) viruses; and influenza B viruses.

There are several flu vaccine options for the 2014-2015 season. Vaccines made to protect against three different flu viruses (called "trivalent" vaccines) or to protect against four different flu viruses (called "quadrivalent" vaccines) are available. Both trivalent and quadrivalent flu vaccines are available by injection. Nasal spray flu vaccine is only available as a quadrivalent vaccine. CDC does not recommend one flu vaccine over another. The important message is to get a flu vaccination every year.

For 2014-2015, U.S.-licensed influenza vaccines will contain the same vaccine virus strains as those in the 2013-2014 vaccine. Trivalent influenza vaccines will contain hemagglutinin (HA) derived from:

- An A/California/7/2009 (H1N1)-like virus
- An A/Texas/50/2012 (H3N2)-like virus
- A B/Massachusetts/2/2012-like (Yamagata lineage) virus

Quadrivalent influenza vaccines will contain these three antigens, and also a B/Brisbane/60/2008-like (Victoria lineage) virus.

CDC recommendations for seasonal influenza vaccination during the 2014-2015 season include “universal” annual vaccination for everyone in the United States ages 6 months and older.

While everyone should get flu vaccine each flu season, it’s especially important that the following groups get vaccinated because they are at high risk of having serious flu-related complications, or because they live with or care for people at high risk for developing flu-related complications:

- Pregnant women
- Children younger than age 5, but especially children younger than 2 years old
- People 50 years of age and older
- People of any age with certain chronic medical conditions, including asthma and diabetes
- People who are morbidly obese (body-mass index of 40 or greater)
- People who live in nursing homes and other chronic-care facilities
- People who live with or care for those at high risk for complications from flu, including:
 - Health-care personnel
 - Household contacts of persons at high risk for complications from the flu
 - Household contacts and out-of-home caregivers of children younger than 6 months of age (these children are too young to be vaccinated)
- American Indians/Alaska Natives

Some people should not get flu vaccine without first consulting a physician. These include:

- People who have a severe allergy (anaphylaxis) to chicken eggs
- People who have had a severe reaction to an influenza vaccination
- Children younger than 6 months of age (influenza vaccine is not approved for this age group)
- People who have a moderate-to-severe illness with a fever (they should wait until they recover to get vaccinated)
- People who developed Guillain-Barré syndrome within 6 weeks of getting an influenza vaccine

3. Resources. For current information on influenza, visit the following CDC Web sites:

- a. <http://www.cdc.gov/flu/> - influenza overview
- b. <http://www.cdc.gov/flu/professionals/index.htm> - information for health professionals
- c. <http://www.cdc.gov/flu/freeresources/index.htm> - free influenza resources to download

4. Action.

a. **Vaccination.**

Based on the CDC recommendations above, Job Corps centers should offer influenza vaccine to all students – not just to students with health conditions that put them in the high-risk category. One dose of flu vaccine should be administered as soon as available. Early administration of flu vaccine early in the flu season (September) is not associated with loss of protection, and administration of flu vaccine late in the season (March) still affords protection, as cases of flu often peak in late winter. Injectable vaccine or nasal spray vaccine may be administered, but the nasal spray vaccine should not be administered to pregnant or immunocompromised students, or to students with asthma.

Influenza vaccination is strongly encouraged for all center health staff members, who could potentially transmit infection to students. Increased absenteeism among health staff could also reduce the capacity of a center to respond to increased demand for care in the event of an influenza outbreak on center. Health staff who decline influenza vaccination should sign a waiver to be placed in their personnel file, as is currently required for hepatitis B vaccine. All other center staff members are encouraged to be immunized against influenza, but a written waiver is not required for those who decline.

Centers should first contact their state and/or local health departments to inquire if influenza vaccines are available for administration on center. If not, influenza vaccines can be purchased from the HHS Supply Service Center in Perry Point, MD, or from private vendors.

Centers may wish to offer influenza vaccination to students in alternate locations, such as the cafeteria during the lunch break or the dormitories after hours, to increase voluntary participation. Members of the Student Government Association should be engaged in promoting influenza vaccination. Influenza vaccines should remain available on center throughout the flu season for new students and for students who may have initially decline immunization.

b. **Education.**

Job Corps centers are encouraged to share with students and staff the following tips for controlling the spread of influenza:

- Cover your nose and mouth with a tissue when you cough or sneeze. Throw the tissue in the trash after you use it.
- Wash your hands often with soap and water, especially after you cough or sneeze. Alcohol-based hand cleansers are also effective.

- Avoid touching your eyes, nose, or mouth. Germs spread that way.
- Try to avoid close contact with sick people.
- Encourage residential students to report to the health and wellness centers if they become ill. Sick nonresidential students and staff should be encouraged to stay home and limit contact with others.

c. **Planning.**

Job Corps centers are encouraged to review their pandemic flu plans in case of outbreaks on center. For guidance on planning and preparation for pandemic influenza, refer to Job Corps Information Notice No. 06-08, "Pandemic Influenza Preparation for Job Corps" (September 11, 2007). A copy of the directive can be downloaded from the Job Corps Community Web site. Center health staff members are also encouraged to contact their state and/or local health departments for the latest information on vaccine availability, and recommendations for flu testing, treatment and prophylaxis. Centers should continue to use the Significant Incident Report system to keep the National and Regional Offices informed. For reporting purposes, epidemic influenza will be defined by Job Corps as cases affecting 10 percent or more of on-board strength.

Closing of Job Corps centers in response to influenza is not anticipated, although new intakes might be restricted if cases reach the center's epidemic threshold. Non-residential students should stay home at onset of influenza symptoms including fever, chills, sore throat, cough, and muscle pain. Residential students may be transported home or treated on center. Public transportation should not be used for students exhibiting symptoms. Patients can spread influenza virus 1 day before symptoms appear, and up to 5 days after onset of illness. Students with influenza should not return to class or work until fever has resolved and 5 days have passed since onset of symptoms. For Job Corps students, medical leave for influenza will not require third party verification.

d. **Testing and Treatment.**

Centers should not stockpile diagnostic materials or antiviral medications, and should only conduct diagnostic testing and begin treatment or prophylaxis based on recommendations from their states or local health departments.

Addressees are to ensure this Information Notice is distributed to all appropriate staff.

5. Expiration Date. Until superseded.

6. Inquiries. Inquiries should be directed to Carol Abnathy at (202) 693-3283 or abnathy.carol@dol.gov, or Johnetta Davis at (202) 693-8010 or davis.johnetta@dol.gov.