



OFFICIAL PUBLIC HEALTH ADVISORY

January 7, 2005

OFFICIAL PUBLIC HEALTH ADVISORY ESTABLISHING PRIORITIES FOR THE DISTRIBUTION AND USE OF INFLUENZA VACCINE TO PERSONS IN HIGH RISK CATEGORIES

The United States Department of Health and Human Services has determined the extent of the influenza vaccine shortage and, based on current and future availability, the United States Centers for Disease Control and Prevention has issued recommendations to health care providers for the 2004–05 influenza season with regard to priority groups for vaccination to maximize protection of those persons most at risk of serious illness or death due to influenza.

For the purposes of this PUBLIC HEALTH ADVISORY:

“Health care provider” means any person or entity authorized under the laws of Florida to purchase, store, distribute, possess, prescribe, dispense or administer influenza vaccinations.

“High risk categories” means:

- 1) All children aged 6 to 35 months;
- 2) Adults aged 50 years or older;
- 3) Persons aged 3 to 50 years with underlying chronic medical conditions;
- 4) All women who will be pregnant during the influenza season;
- 5) Residents of nursing homes and long-term care facilities;
- 6) Children aged 6 months to 19 years on chronic aspirin therapy;
- 7) Health care workers involved in direct patient care;
- 8) Out-of-home caregivers and household contacts of children aged less than 6 months, and
- 9) All household contacts of high-risk individuals.

As State Health Officer, I hereby recommend that this Public Health Advisory be prominently displayed at all locations where influenza vaccine is administered.

John O. Agwunobi, M.D., M.B.A., M.P.H. • Secretary

