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FM COMDT COGARD WASHINGTON DC//CG-112//  
TO AIG 4905  
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UNCLAS //N06010//

SUBJ: H1N1 INFLUENZA VACCINE EXPIRATION UPDATE

A. ALCOAST 582/09 COMDTNOTE 6010

1. NOVEL INFLUENZA A (H1N1) VACCINE IS MANDATORY FOR ALL COAST GUARD (CG) ACTIVE DUTY (AD) AND SELECTED RESERVE (SELRES) PERSONNEL PER REFERENCE A. CG CLINICS HAVE RECEIVED THE ENTIRE ALLOCATED SUPPLY FROM THE DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE (DOD) AND THE DEPARTMENT OF HOMELAND SECURITY (DHS) FOR THE 2009-2010 SEASON.

2. H1N1 VACCINE PRODUCT EXPIRATION DATES VARY FROM MARCH 2010 TO JUNE 2011. ONCE THE VACCINE PRODUCT HAS REACHED THE MANUFACTURER EXPIRATION DATE, THE PRODUCT SHOULD BE REMOVED FROM INVENTORY AND COLD CHAIN MANAGEMENT IS NO LONGER REQUIRED.

3. NOTIFICATION FROM TWO OF THE CG REVERSE DISTRIBUTION COMPANIES, EXP PHARMACEUTICALS AND GUARANTEED RETURNS, INDICATE THAT THE EXPIRED H1N1 AND SEASONAL FLU VACCINE WILL NOT BE ACCEPTED AS A "RETURN FOR CREDIT" ITEM, NOR WILL IT BE ACCEPTED AS A DISPOSAL ITEM.

4. STATE REGULATIONS MAY ALLOW DISPOSAL AS A BIOHAZARD, BUT UNITS MUST CHECK WITH INDIVIDUAL STATE REGULATIONS BEFORE DISPOSAL.

5. AN AVAILABLE OPTION FOR DISPOSAL OF THE EXPIRED VACCINE IS BEING PROVIDED BY THE CDC WITH A SINGLE CG CENTRAL POINT OF COLLECTION, AIR STATION CAPE COD. FOR DISPOSAL OF ALL INJECTABLE EXPIRED H1N1 AND SEASONAL INFLUENZA VACCINE FOR 2009-2010 SEASON (SUPPLIED BY EITHER THE DOD OR DHS) WHICH CANNOT BE DISPOSED OF BY REVERSE DISTRIBUTION COMPANIES OR ACCORDING TO LOCAL STATE REGULATIONS, FORWARD THE EXPIRED PRODUCT TO: COMMANDING OFFICER, AIR STATION CAPE COD, KAEHLER MEMORIAL MEDICAL CLINIC, ATTENTION PHARMACY, 5201 LEE ROAD, AIR STATION CAPE COD, MA 02542.

6. H1N1 VACCINE SUPPLIED BY STATE HEALTH DEPARTMENTS IS NOT TO BE RETURNED TO THE CDC VIA AIR STATION CAPE COD. FOR ANY STATE ALLOCATED PRODUCT, CONTACT YOUR LOCAL STATE HEALTH DEPARTMENT FOR INSTRUCTIONS ON DISPOSAL.

7. DHS HAS INSTRUCTED THE CG TO RETAIN ALL CURRENT INVENTORY OF EXCESS H1N1 VACCINE SUPPLY THAT HAS NOT EXPIRED.

8. FOR QUESTIONS REGARDING THIS UPDATE PLEASE CONTACT THE CG HEALTH, SAFETY, WORK-LIFE SUPPORT ACTIVITY (HSWL SUPACT) PHARMACY OFFICER, CAPT VERNON LEW AT VERNON.T.LEW(AT)USCG.MIL OR (757) 628-4338 OR CDR DEBORAH THOMPSON AT DEBORAH.J.THOMPSON(AT)USCG.MIL OR (202) 475-5181.

9. CAPT MICHAEL J. BOQUARD, CHIEF, OFFICE OF HEALTH SERVICES SENDS.

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