

memorandum

DATE: October 7, 2004

REPLY TO
ATTN OF: AD-442:Kent

SUBJECT: **INFLUENZA VACCINATIONS**

TO: All ORO, OSTI, and YSO Employees

We have received notification from our medical supplies distributor that the influenza (flu) vaccine will not be available to us this year. The Centers for Disease Control (CDC) has received notification that one of the two major manufacturers of flu vaccine has had their license suspended, thus preventing any release of vaccine from this manufacturer during this flu season. As a result, the Department of Health and Human Services has urged distributors to ensure that the remaining scarce supply be distributed for use for individuals who are at the greatest risk for contracting the flu. The vaccine that we ordered will be redistributed in order to make it available to those in higher risk categories as defined below:

- Adults age 65 or older
- Infants age 6 to 23 months
- Persons ages 2 to 64 with underlying chronic medical conditions
- All women who will be pregnant during the flu season
- Residents of nursing homes and long-term care facilities
- Children ages 6 months to 18 years old on chronic aspirin therapy
- Health care workers involved in direct patient care
- Out-of-home caregivers and household contacts of children less than 6 months old

The CDC has asked that persons who are not in one of these higher risk categories forego or defer vaccination in response to this shortage. If you are in one of the high risk groups, or if you desire a flu immunization for other reasons, you should plan to seek that immunization from private sources. Employees should consult with their individual health insurance providers to determine whether the cost of immunization is a covered expense.

We apologize for your inconvenience. Unfortunately, this situation is beyond our control.



Melanie M. Kent, Chief
Federal Human Resources Branch