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FM COMDT COGARD WASHINGTON DC//CG-11//

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COMDTNOTE 6010

SUBJ: 2017-2018 ANNUAL INFLUENZA (FLU) IMMUNIZATION PROGRAM

A. Immunizations and Chemoprophylaxis for the Prevention of Infectious Diseases, COMDTINST M6230.4 (series)

B. Coast Guard Medical Manual, COMDTINST M6000.1 (series)

C. Civilian Employee Health Care and Occupational Health Program, COMDTINST M12792.3 (series)

1. Influenza ('flu') is a highly contagious disease which has the potential to significantly degrade operational readiness. The most effective strategy to prevent the flu is annual vaccination.

2. Flu vaccination is mandatory for all Coast Guard Active Duty (AD) and Selected Reserve (SELRES) personnel to ensure force medical readiness and avoid disruption of Coast Guard missions. In accordance with REFs (A) through (C), the seasonal flu vaccine is also mandatory for Child Development Services personnel (including certified Family Child Care Providers); civilian, contract, and Auxiliary healthcare personnel who provide direct patient care; and recreation personnel in the youth programs at Borinquen, Cape Cod, Kodiak, and Petaluma.

3. Flu vaccinations are available at Coast Guard clinics for AD personnel and for Auxiliary healthcare personnel assigned to Coast Guard clinics. Contract personnel will obtain the flu vaccine according to the terms of their contract.

4. Remotely located AD and SELRES personnel have several options for obtaining flu vaccinations this season:

a. Personnel who have TRICARE may receive their vaccination from their Primary Care Provider or from a pharmacy that takes TRICARE.

b. Prior to 1 October, personnel who do not have TRICARE and who incur out-of-pocket expenses related to getting a flu shot may request reimbursement from the Health, Safety, and Work-Life Service Center using the Claim for Reimbursement for Expenditures on Official Business, Form OF1164 which can be found at <https://www.gsa.gov/portal/forms/download/150834>. In addition to the completed OF1164, personnel must submit a copy of the invoice or receipt provided by the medical facility administering the shot to SKC Robert Mastrianni (757-628-4372, Robert.M.Mastrianni@uscg.mil).

Personnel using this option must provide medical documentation of immunization to their Coast Guard Health Record Custodian. The medical documentation must include the date the vaccine was administered, the vaccine name or code, the manufacturer and lot number, the dose administered, route and anatomic site of vaccination.

c. Starting on 1 October, remotely located AD and SELRES personnel may receive their flu vaccination via the Reserve Health Readiness Program (RHRP) through an RHRP contracted clinic, an RHRP approved pharmacy, or the RHRP Walgreens Walk-in option. These personnel should call 877-437-6313 to schedule a flu vaccination. Those who would like to use the Walgreens Walk-in option must specifically request it when they call RHRP.

5. Coast Guard civilian employees enrolled in the Federal Employees Health Benefits Program (FEHBP) can be immunized through their health plan at no out-of-pocket cost. Many FEHBP health plans make the flu vaccine available in pharmacies and other convenient community locations. Coast Guard civilian employees who are not insured through the FEHBP and who are required to be immunized against the flu shall complete the Claim for Reimbursement for Expenditures on Official Business, Form OF1164 (as described in paragraph 4.b) to obtain reimbursement from COMDT (CG-832). Ms. Regina Cash and Mr. Felix Edozie are the COMDT (CG-832) POCs regarding the reimbursement process. Civilian employees who are required to have the flu vaccine must provide the following information to the cognizant clinic administrator NLT 15 December 2017: the date the vaccine was administered, the vaccine name or code, the manufacturer and lot

number, the dose administered, route and anatomic site of vaccination, the date the Vaccine Information Statement (VIS) was provided, and the VIS version date.

6. Non-Appropriated Fund (NAF) employees should obtain the flu vaccination through their nonappropriated fund health insurance or other health insurance coverage available. Those employees who are not part of the NAF health benefits plan and are mandated to obtain the flu vaccine in accordance with Paragraph 2, above, may complete the Claim for Reimbursement for Expenditures on Official Business, Form OF1164 (as described in paragraph 4.b), and submit the form and the immunization receipt to their supervisors for approval and submission to Ms. Virginia Cameron, Human Resources Director in the Community Services Command, for payment. NAF employees who are required to have the flu vaccine must provide appropriate documentation as described in Paragraph 5 to their supervisor NLT 15 December 2017.

7. The annual flu vaccine is available through the Coast Guard only in an injectable form. In June 2017, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices recommended that the nasal form of the vaccine ('Flumist') not be used because it has been shown to be ineffective at preventing the flu. Coast Guard personnel, both military and civilian, should not receive Flumist if it is offered, as it does not fulfill Coast Guard requirements IAW REFs (A) and (B). TRICARE, RHRP, FEHBP, NAF health benefit plan, and the Coast Guard will not reimburse for Flumist this year.

8. Commanding officers are responsible for ensuring medical readiness, including compliance with the annual flu vaccine requirement. Military personnel shall receive the flu vaccine as supplies become available. A vaccination rate of 90% or greater for military personnel is targeted NLT 15 December 2017. Exemptions to the flu vaccine may be considered in accordance with REFs (A) and (C).

9. POC: CDR Shane Steiner (Chief, Preventive Medicine, COMDT (CG-1121)), 202-475-5256, E-mail: Shane.C.Steiner@uscg.mil.

10. RADM Erica G. Schwartz, Director, Health, Safety, and Work-Life, Sends.

11. Internet release authorized.