



Nebraska Department of Health and Human Services



# HEALTH ALERT NETWORK

## Advisory



TO: Nebraska Healthcare Providers

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RE: Advisory regarding usage of Afluria influenza vaccine in children

DATE: September 24, 2010

On August 5, 2010, the Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices (ACIP) recommended that the 2010–11 Afluria influenza vaccine manufactured by CSL Biotherapies **not be administered** to children aged 6 months through 8 years. Other age-appropriate, licensed seasonal influenza vaccine formulations should be used for prevention of influenza in these children. A study during the 2010 Australia influenza season found that CSL vaccines which were antigenically equivalent to Afluria caused an increase in fever and febrile seizures among children aged 6 months to 4 years of age and postmarketing surveillance indicated increased reports of fever in children aged 5–8 years after vaccination.

If no other age-appropriate, licensed inactivated seasonal influenza vaccine is available for a child aged 5–8 years who has a medical condition that increases their risk for influenza complications, Afluria can be used; however, providers should discuss with the parents or caregivers the benefits and risks of Afluria use before administering this vaccine to children aged 5–8 years.

Be aware that the Afluria vaccine packaging has not been changed and still indicates that this product is for children 36 months of age and older. However, the packaging does include a warning that "Administration of CSL's Southern Hemisphere influenza vaccine has been associated with increased postmarketing reports of fever and febrile seizures in children predominantly below the age of 5 years as compared to previous years."

In the United States, annual influenza vaccination is recommended for all persons aged  $\geq 6$  months.

#### REFERENCE:

*Update: Recommendations of the Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices (ACIP) Regarding Use of CSL Seasonal Influenza Vaccine (Afluria) in the United States During 2010–11.* MMWR Weekly. August 13, 2010 / 59(31);989-992.