

MEMORANDUM

TO: Pat McConnon, Executive Director CSTE

FROM: Kathleen F. Gensheimer, M.D., M.P.H., State Epidemiologist,
Division of Disease Control, Bureau of Health

SUBJECT: **Consultancy, Pandemic Influenza Vaccine Procurement and
Distribution Options Meeting, August 22, 2002**

DATE: August 29, 2002

I represented CSTE and ASTHO at the CDC, National Immunization Program Pandemic Influenza Vaccine Procurement and Distribution Options All-stakeholders meeting, held in Atlanta, August 22, 2002. Stimulus for the meeting was a result of the following:

1. The national pandemic influenza action plan is under review in the Department of Health and Human Services.
2. The National Immunization Program at the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention has been assigned to meet with stakeholders to develop review options for vaccine purchase and distribution in response to a pandemic, which are not discussed in detail in the draft national plan. (The national plan has not yet been approved by the Secretary's office)
3. Concepts have been discussed at various meetings since 1995, mostly with vaccine companies and distributors, and to a lesser extent with provider organizations.
4. Issues raised in the past have focused on
 - Assuring availability of vaccine to providers as early as possible
 - Disseminating vaccine target group recommendations as early as possible
 - Emphasizing the likely need to vaccinate the entire U.S. population, more than three times as many people as now are vaccinated annually
 - Understanding that illness attack rates from pandemic influenza may be two or three-fold higher than in a usual influenza epidemic
 - Understanding the need for two doses of vaccine, given one month apart, for most, if not all people, one month apart, given the novel virus strain to which most, if not all will be highly susceptible, since

individuals will have had no previous exposure to a novel pandemic strain

- Assuring adequate payment for administration (and vaccine, if not provided)
- Assuring liability protection for vaccine producers and providers

The content of my presentation was developed after a conference call held on July 27 with members of the ASTHO/CDTE influenza pandemic work group: Jim Hadler (CT); Gilian Stoltman (MI); Susan Lett (MA); Natalie Smith (CA); Mack Sewall (NM); Ed Bresnitz (NJ); Susan Lance Parker (GA); K. Hodge (CSTE); Clare Hannan (ASTHO).

Attached is the PowerPoint presentation I presented which in essence supports the CSTE/ASTHO support of federal purchase; state distribution and a hybrid system of public/private administration of vaccine.

The issue of how we can be assured that available supplies of influenza vaccine will be initially provided only to high-risk persons and other target groups still remains. Even with federal government purchase of all pandemic influenza vaccine produced with distribution to state and local health departments for further distribution and arrangements for administration, the need for public forums to discuss this complex issue will be critical, so that both the public and the medical community understand the intent and background of decisions made regarding priority groups.