



AMERICAN ACADEMY OF
FAMILY PHYSICIANS
STRONG MEDICINE FOR AMERICA

January 11, 2011

National Vaccine Program Office
U.S. Department of Health & Human Services
Attn: Healthcare Personnel Influenza Vaccination c/o Jennifer Gordon
200 Independence Avenue, SW
Room 733-G.3
Washington, DC 20201

Re: Recommendations on Strategies to Achieve the Healthy People 2020 Annual Goal of 90% Influenza Vaccine Coverage for Health Care Personnel

Dear Ms. Gordon:

On behalf of the American Academy of Family Physicians (AAFP), which represents more than 100,300 family physicians and medical students nationwide, I write in response to the NVAC Adult Immunization Working Group's [draft](#) Recommendations on Strategies to Achieve the Healthy People 2020 Annual Goal of 90% Influenza Vaccine Coverage for Health Care Personnel as published in the December 16, 2011 *Federal Register*.

On balance, the recommendations are consistent with AAFP [policy](#) to immunize health care workers. The AAFP supports annual mandatory influenza immunization for health care personnel (HCP) except for religious or medical reasons (not personal preferences). If HCP are not vaccinated, policies to adjust practice activities during flu season are appropriate (e.g. wear masks, refrain from direct patient care).

The AAFP commends the subgroup for focusing on their specific charge. We recognize that influenza is a serious public health concern and that individuals are exposed to this and other illnesses in places in the community besides health care facilities. The AAFP believes that the optimal immunization rate for herd immunity against influenza is unknown and we encourage further research in that area.

We appreciate the opportunity to provide these comments and make ourselves available for any questions you might have or clarifications you might need. Please contact Robert Bennett, Federal Regulatory Manager, at 202-232-9033 or rbennett@aafp.org.

Sincerely,

Roland A. Goertz, MD, MBA, FFAFP
Board Chair

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