

02-09

STATEMENT OF POLICY

PANDEMIC INFLUENZA VACCINE PROCUREMENT AND DISTRIBUTION

Policy

The National Association of County and City Health Officials (NACCHO) strongly supports federal purchase and distribution of influenza vaccine during a pandemic. This approach would best address the problem of lag time between pandemic strain alert and vaccine availability. It would help ensure more timely vaccination of target populations and optimal vaccine accountability. It would also ensure that all stakeholders are knowledgeable and willing participants in a single system of procurement and distribution.

Cogent, well-communicated, and workable plans for allocation and distribution of vaccine and increased cooperation between public and private providers will be crucial in the face of vaccine shortages during a pandemic. There is a great need for improved communication between manufacturers, distributors, local health departments, and public and private providers to overcome the obstacles of supply and distribution in non-pandemic seasons, as well as in preparing for a pandemic.

NACCHO will continue to assist local health departments to eliminate the problems they face resulting from vaccine shortages, delayed deliveries, and staggered vaccine availability.

Justification

In recent years, the current vaccine distribution system showed significant deficits in manufacturing and delivering influenza vaccine, which suggests that the nation must overhaul the current distribution system *before* we face a pandemic flu season. Our current distribution system is not adequate to respond to emergencies.

Record of Action

Based on Resolution 02-09, proposed by Immunization Work Group of the Community Health & Prevention Advisory Committee

Adopted by NACCHO Board of Directors

Revised July 2006