

**Washington Vaccine Association  
Vaccine Committee Meeting  
November 3, 2016; 12:30-1:30 p.m. PDT**

**I. Attendance.** Participating in all or part of the meeting in person by telephone (T) were the following individuals:

Committee Members

Ed Marcuse, MD, Chairman  
Rachel Wood, MD  
Cathy Falanga, Aetna  
John Dunn, MD  
Michele Roberts, Department of Health  
Rachel Wood, MD (T)  
Jeffrey Gombosky (T)

Others

Sasha DeLeon, Department of Health  
Dennis Kirkpatrick, President, WPAS  
James Flood, Crowell & Moring  
Scott Douglas, Crowell & Moring  
Mary Kay O'Neill, MD, Mercer Consulting  
Kristin Peterson, Esq., Department of Health

KidsVax®

Julia Walter, M.A., Esq., Executive Director  
Ashley Kittrell, Communications Coordinator

**II. Minutes**

Welcome & Introductions

At 12:30 p.m., a quorum having been established, Chairman Ed Marcuse called the meeting to order. Julia Walter informed the Committee that the meeting is recorded for the benefit of the secretary and will be deleted following the approval of the minutes. Committee members introduced themselves, and Chairman Marcuse asked Sasha DeLeon to proceed with the Department of Health (DOH) updates.

Department of Health Updates

Ms. DeLeon, the DOH Vaccine Assurance Unit Supervisor updated the Committee on several items including flu allocation and ordering, the Advisory Committee on Immunization Practice's (ACIP) recommendation of HPV Gardasil 9 (HPV9), vaccine choice, and Meningococcal B. In preparation for the 2016/17 flu season, approximately 686,000 doses have been pre-booked. Because Flumist is no longer recommended by the ACIP, the stock has been replaced with Fluzone MDV and FluLaval MDV. As of November 1<sup>st</sup>, approximately 87% allocation to the state is available for ordering, and of the 686,000 doses pre-booked, 345,920 doses have been ordered and approximately 247,510 doses remain. Chairman Marcuse asked Ms. DeLeon to clarify the difference between vaccine allocation and ordering. Ms. DeLeon explained that the number of doses each local department of health estimates that it will need is written as an allocation and the DOH reserves the estimated amount.

1 Regarding allocation issues, Ms. DeLeon noted that initially, large organizations that cover  
2 different counties receive the same amount of vaccines, which is sent in either prefilled syringes  
3 or vials. This year, approximately 70% received prefilled syringes and 30% vials; however, the  
4 delay of prefilled syringes, the vials have had to replace the prefilled syringes. Michele Roberts  
5 added that the CDC did not inform the DOH that when it replaced Flumist, some manufacturers  
6 had to make new vaccine. Ms. DeLeon also noted that there has been an increased demand for pre-  
7 filled syringes by parents and naturopathic doctors looking for a preservative-free option. There is  
8 currently no known demand for cell-based and recombinant flu vaccines as these are usually used  
9 for patients with severe egg allergies. Discussion ensued regarding the demand for preservative-  
10 free flu vaccine and its possible effect on Flumist.

11  
12 Ms. DeLeon continued to the discussion of HPV9, noting that the FDA recently approved HPV9  
13 as a 2-dose series for adolescents between 9 and 14 years old. ACIP believes that the reduction  
14 from three to two shots will help facilitate series initiation and completion, as well as reduce office  
15 visits. Children younger than 9 who receive the series will still need to receive the three doses.  
16 Chairman Marcuse noted that this should result in savings for the WVA. Ms. Roberts replied that  
17 DOH will have to conduct an analysis to verify and will include it in the budget updates.

18  
19 Ms. DeLeon continued with the review of the vaccine choice enrollment period, which began on  
20 October 17<sup>th</sup> and ends on November 4<sup>th</sup>. Because all forms are being faxed in this year, it is difficult  
21 to determine what vaccines have been selected and what providers are changing in comparison to  
22 the previous periods. From initial data analysis, there seems to be a change from Menveo to  
23 Menactra, and there has been little interest in switching to Hiberix.

24  
25 Ms. DeLeon concluded the DOH updates by saying that the Department continues to see steady  
26 ordering, which is monitored closely because providers have to contact the DOH to order  
27 Meningococcal B and has been steadily increasing.

#### 28 29 Flu Mist

30 Chairman Marcuse then directed the Committee to the handout showing the history and  
31 background of LAIV, or Flumist. He noted that several Board members have expressed concern  
32 as to why it was not as effective as originally thought. LAIV was approved in 2003, and there are  
33 three to four components in the LAIV strain that is given through the nose. Flu strains change  
34 annually and in 2009, a pandemic strain was introduced. LAIV supposedly gave a greater cross  
35 protection. The data of efficacy decreased over the next three years when it became clear that  
36 LAIV 4 was inferior to other strains and gave no protection to the H1N1 strain. LAIV 3 and 4 are  
37 currently being used in Canada and Europe. Chairman Marcuse reviewed several hypotheses of  
38 why LAIV does not work, such as the addition of the fourth influenza and interfered with viral  
39 replication; however, there are no definite known reasons for the inefficacy of Flumist at this time.  
40 Ms. Roberts asked if there is any new data for the ACIP's review regarding why the vaccine was  
41 ineffective. Chairman Marcuse replied that he was not aware of any discussions regarding actual  
42 examination of data to determine the cause.

43  
44 Dr. John Dunn proceeded to discuss optimal timing of annual flu vaccine.

1 Optimal timing of Annual Flu Vaccine

2 John Dunn began the discussion of optimal timing of flu vaccine and noted that in the past, the  
3 general rule was to avoid vaccination before October, especially for the elderly because of the  
4 rapid decline of the vaccine-induced antibody. In 2009, the general rule became that vaccines  
5 should be administered if possible by October to decrease the likelihood of contamination. That  
6 soon changed, however, and in 2010, it was recommended that flu vaccine should be administered  
7 as soon as it is available and continue for the remainder of flu season. The current CDC  
8 recommendation is that flu vaccination should begin after vaccine becomes available, if possible  
9 by October. Dr. Dunn explained that the optimal time to vaccinate has changed throughout the last  
10 several years and there are many factors that affect this. For example, peak influenza activity has  
11 occurred in or after January and February; yet in recent seasons, vaccine shipments have begun as  
12 early as July. The Committee discussed the difficulty of serving a high volume of children in as  
13 little as two months as recommended and it is necessary to vaccinate children when able in order  
14 to decrease the chance of missed opportunities.

15  
16 KidsVax Updates

17 Chairman Marcuse thanked Dr. Dunn and asked if the representatives from Crowell and Moring  
18 (C&M) would like to give any updates regarding TRICARE's participation in universal vaccine  
19 purchase (UVP) states. Jim Flood, the chair of C&M's Government Affairs Group, thanked the  
20 Committee for allowing them to participate in the meeting and gave an update on the current  
21 legislation and 2017 plan for addressing the arrears. Mr. Flood gave an overview of the process  
22 throughout 2015 and 2016 to get legislation in the National Defense Authorization Act (NDAA).  
23 The provision is in the final Senate version and C&M is confident that it will be passed in the  
24 NDAA, which will be most likely be passed in December. C&M is currently strategizing with KV  
25 and other UVP representatives regarding legislation for the arrears in 2017.

26  
27 Closing

28 There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at approximately 1:33 p.m.

What: Vaccine Committee Meeting  
 Date & Time: Thursday, November 3, 2016; 12:30-1:30 p.m. PDT  
 Location: Alki Conference Room. Ellis, Li, & McKinstry 2025 1<sup>st</sup> Ave, PH-A Seattle, WA 98121  
 Conference Line: (267) 930-4000; Conference ID: 103063718#

Notice: The meeting may be recorded for the benefit of the secretary. The WVA intends to delete the recording after the minutes of the meeting are approved.

**AGENDA for Vaccine Committee Meeting (in person attendance if possible)**

<b>Approx. Time</b>	<b>Topic/[Anticipated Action]</b>	<b>Presented by:</b>
12:30-12:35 p.m.	1. Welcome & Introductions a. Survey of Other Topics	E. Marcuse
12:35-1:00 p.m.	2. Department of Health a. Flu Allocation and Ordering b. Preservative-Free Flu Vaccine c. Cell-free and recombinant Flu Vaccines d. Meningococcal B Vaccine e. HPV2 f. Current Vaccine Choice Period g. Additional Vaccine Supply Updates	S. DeLeon
1:00-1:05 p.m.	3. Flu Mist	E. Marcuse
1:05-1:20 p.m.	4. Optimal Timing of Annual Flu Vaccine	J. Dunn
1:20-1:25 p.m. *	5. KidsVax Updates a. WVA Provider Communications	J. Walter
1:25-1:30 p.m.	6. Closing	E. Marcuse

\*Indicates agenda item attached  
 Red text indicates an action item

# Quick Guide

## Dosage Based Assessments for Washington's Universal Vaccine Program

### Ensuring Universal Purchase of Childhood Vaccines in Washington

The Washington Vaccine Association (WVA) and the Department of Health work together in a public/private partnership to support Washington's universal Childhood Vaccine Program. The state uses a combination of federal and state funds to make vaccine available at no cost to all children in Washington.

Removing cost as a barrier assures that all Washington children have ready access to life-saving vaccines.

Providers make this possible by including the Dosage Based Assessment (DBA) process with their claims submission. This critical step allows physicians, clinics, hospitals, and other providers to receive vaccine for all children at no cost.

It's important that provider office billing staff understand how to complete the DBA process. For your convenience, we created this Quick Guide.



# Completing the DBA Process

## BY MAIL

You will be filling out the Health Insurance Claim Form twice, filling it out once as the Administration Claim Form and once as the HCFA1500/DBA Form.

### STEP 1

#### Fill out the HCFA 1500 as the Administration Claim Form

Fill out HCFA 1500 Form for the administration of the vaccine, office visit, and other charges. This claim should include only the administration codes, office call or other charges.

❗ Do not include vaccine codes and modifiers.

### STEP 2

#### Fill out HCFA 1500 as the DBA Form.

The DBA Form must include:

**Box 21** Enter "Z 23"

(this is the only diagnosis required).

**Box 24d** Enter CPT code for the state-supplied vaccine given (Do not include modifiers)

**Box 24f** Enter WVA charge based on the current grid, found online at [wavaccine.org/wavaccine.nsf/pages/AssessmentGrid.html](http://wavaccine.org/wavaccine.nsf/pages/AssessmentGrid.html)

**Box 24j** Enter WVA NPI (1699092718)

**Box 25** WVA TIN (27-2251833)

**Boxes 31&32** Complete both areas with the same information that is on the administration claim

**Box 32a** Enter Provider NPI

**Box 33** Washington Vaccine Association, PO Box 94002, Seattle, WA 98124-9402

**Box 33a** Enter the WVA NPI (1699092718)

### STEP 3

#### Submit via Mail

Mail the Administrative Claim Form and DBA Form to the payer (health plan, insurance company, or third-party administrator) – not to the WVA.

❗ Do not submit to WVA.

**VACCINE ADMINISTRATION CLAIM TO SUBMIT WITH DBA FORM**

**HEALTH INSURANCE CLAIM FORM**  
APPROVED BY NATIONAL UNIFORM CLAIM COMMITTEE (NUCC) 03/12

1. MEDICARE ☐ MEDICAID ☐ TRICARE ☐ CHAMPVA ☐ GROUP HEALTH PLAN ☐ OTHER ☐ 14. INSURED'S ID NUMBER (For Program in Item 1) PICA ☐

2. PATIENT'S NAME (Last Name, First Name, Middle Initial) 3. PATIENT'S BIRTH DATE MM DD YY SEX 4. INSURED'S NAME (Last Name, First Name, Middle Initial)

5. PATIENT'S ADDRESS (No. Street) 6. PATIENT'S RELATIONSHIP TO INSURED Self ☐ Spouse ☐ Child ☐ Other ☐ 7. INSURED'S ADDRESS (No. Street)

8. RESERVED FOR NUCC USE 9. RESERVED FOR NUCC USE 10. IS PATIENT'S CONDITION RELATED TO: YES ☐ NO ☐ 11. INSURED'S POLICY GROUP OR FECA NUMBER

12. PATIENT'S OR AUTHORIZED PERSON'S SIGNATURE (I authorize the release of any medical or other information necessary to process this claim. I also request payment of government benefits either to myself or to the party who accepts assignment below.) SIGNED DATE 13. INSURED'S OR AUTHORIZED PERSON'S SIGNATURE (I authorize payment of medical benefits to the undersigned physician or supplier for services described below.) SIGNED

14. DATE OF CURRENT ILLNESS, INJURY, OR PREGNANCY (LMP) QUAL 15. OTHER DATE QUAL 16. DATES PATIENT UNABLE TO WORK IN CURRENT OCCUPATION FROM TO

17. NAME OF REFERRING PROVIDER OR OTHER SOURCE TYN NPI 18. HOSPITALIZATION DATES RELATED TO CURRENT SERVICES FROM TO

19. ADDITIONAL CLAIM INFORMATION (Designated by NUCC) 20. OUTSIDE LAB? YES ☐ NO ☐ 21. CHARGES 22. SUBMISSION CODE 23. PRIOR AUTHORIZATION NUMBER

24. A. DATES OF SERVICE FROM TO B. CPT/PCS CODES C. D. PROCEDURES, SERVICES, OR SUPPLIES (Explain Unusual Circumstances) E. DIAGNOSIS POINTER F. CHARGES G. H. I. J. K. L. M. N. O. P. Q. R. S. T. U. V. W. X. Y. Z. AA. AB. AC. AD. AE. AF. AG. AH. AI. AJ. AK. AL. AM. AN. AO. AP. AQ. AR. AS. AT. AU. AV. AW. AX. AY. AZ. BA. BB. BC. BD. BE. BF. BG. BH. BI. BJ. BK. BL. BM. BN. BO. BP. BQ. BR. BS. BT. BU. BV. BW. BX. BY. BZ. CA. CB. CC. CD. CE. CF. CG. CH. CI. CJ. CK. CL. CM. CN. CO. CP. CQ. CR. CS. CT. CU. CV. CW. CX. CY. CZ. DA. DB. DC. DD. DE. DF. DG. DH. DI. DJ. DK. DL. DM. DN. DO. DP. DQ. DR. DS. DT. DU. DV. DW. DX. DY. DZ. EA. EB. EC. ED. EE. EF. EG. EH. EI. EJ. EK. EL. EM. EN. EO. EP. EQ. ER. ES. ET. EU. EV. EW. EX. EY. EZ. FA. FB. FC. FD. FE. FF. FG. FH. FI. FJ. FK. FL. FM. FN. FO. FP. FQ. FR. FS. FT. FU. FV. FW. FX. FY. FZ. GA. GB. GC. GD. GE. GF. GG. GH. GI. GJ. GK. GL. GM. GN. GO. GP. GQ. GR. GS. GT. GU. GV. GW. GX. GY. GZ. HA. HB. HC. HD. HE. HF. HG. HH. HI. HJ. HK. HL. HM. HN. HO. HP. HQ. HR. HS. HT. HU. HV. HW. HX. HY. HZ. IA. IB. IC. ID. IE. IF. IG. IH. II. IJ. IK. IL. IM. IN. IO. IP. IQ. IR. IS. IT. IU. IV. IW. IX. IY. IZ. JA. JB. JC. JD. JE. JF. JG. JH. JI. JJ. JK. JL. JM. JN. JO. JP. JQ. JR. JS. JT. JU. JV. JW. JX. JY. JZ. KA. KB. KC. KD. KE. KF. KG. KH. KI. KJ. KK. KL. KM. KN. KO. KP. KQ. KR. KS. KT. KU. KV. KW. KX. KY. KZ. LA. LB. LC. LD. LE. LF. LG. LH. LI. LJ. LK. LL. LM. LN. LO. LP. LQ. LR. LS. LT. LU. LV. LW. LX. LY. LZ. MA. MB. MC. MD. ME. MF. MG. MH. MI. MJ. MK. ML. MM. MN. MO. MP. MQ. MR. MS. MT. MU. MV. MW. MX. MY. MZ. NA. NB. NC. ND. NE. NF. NG. NH. NI. NJ. NK. NL. NM. NN. NO. NP. NQ. NR. NS. NT. NU. NV. NW. NX. NY. NZ. OA. OB. OC. OD. OE. OF. OG. OH. OI. OJ. OK. OL. OM. ON. OO. OP. OQ. OR. OS. OT. OU. OV. OW. OX. OY. OZ. PA. PB. PC. PD. PE. PF. PG. PH. PI. PJ. PK. PL. PM. PN. PO. PP. PQ. PR. PS. PT. PU. PV. PW. PX. PY. PZ. QA. QB. QC. QD. QE. QF. QG. QH. QI. QJ. QK. QL. QM. QN. QO. QP. QQ. QR. QS. QT. QU. QV. QW. QX. QY. QZ. RA. RB. RC. RD. RE. RF. RG. RH. RI. RJ. RK. RL. RM. RN. RO. RP. RQ. RR. RS. RT. RU. RV. RW. RX. RY. RZ. SA. SB. SC. SD. SE. SF. SG. SH. SI. SJ. SK. SL. SM. SN. SO. SP. SQ. SR. SS. ST. SU. SV. SW. SX. SY. SZ. TA. TB. TC. TD. TE. TF. TG. TH. TI. TJ. TK. TL. TM. TN. TO. TP. TQ. TR. TS. TT. TU. TV. TW. TX. TY. TZ. UA. UB. UC. UD. UE. UF. UG. UH. UI. UJ. UK. UL. UM. UN. UO. UP. UQ. UR. US. UT. UU. UV. UW. UX. UY. UZ. VA. VB. VC. VD. VE. VF. VG. VH. VI. VJ. VK. VL. VM. VN. VO. VP. VQ. VR. VS. VT. VU. VW. VX. VY. VZ. WA. WB. WC. WD. WE. WF. WG. WH. WI. WJ. WK. WL. WM. WN. WO. WP. WQ. WR. WS. WT. WU. WV. WW. WX. WY. WZ. XA. XB. XC. XD. XE. XF. XG. XH. XI. XJ. XK. XL. XM. XN. XO. XP. XQ. XR. XS. XT. XU. XV. XW. XX. XY. XZ. YA. YB. YC. YD. YE. YF. YG. YH. YI. YJ. YK. YL. YM. YN. YO. YP. YQ. YR. YS. YT. YU. YV. YW. YX. YY. YZ. ZA. ZB. ZC. ZD. ZE. ZF. ZG. ZH. ZI. ZJ. ZK. ZL. ZM. ZN. ZO. ZP. ZQ. ZR. ZS. ZT. ZU. ZV. ZW. ZX. ZY. ZZ.

25. FEDERAL TAX ID NUMBER SSN EIN 26. PATIENT'S ACCOUNT NO. 27. ACCEPT ASSIGNMENT? YES ☐ NO ☐ 28. TOTAL CHARGE \$ 29. AMOUNT PAID \$ 30. Paid by NUCC Use

31. SIGNATURE OF PHYSICIAN OR SUPPLIER INCLUDING DEGREE OR CREDENTIALS (I certify that the statements on the reverse apply to this bill and are made a part thereof.) SIGNED DATE 32. SERVICE FACILITY LOCATION INFORMATION 33. BILLING PROVIDER INFO & PH #

34. PHYSICIAN OR SUPPLIER INFORMATION 35. PROVIDER INFORMATION

NUCC Instruction Manual available at: [www.nucc.org](http://www.nucc.org) PLEASE PRINT OR TYPE APPROVED OMB-9538-1197 FORM 1500 (02-12)

< Step1:  
Administration  
Claim Form

**SAMPLE DBA FORM**

**HEALTH INSURANCE CLAIM FORM**  
APPROVED BY NATIONAL UNIFORM CLAIM COMMITTEE (NUCC) 03/12

1. MEDICARE ☐ MEDICAID ☐ TRICARE ☐ CHAMPVA ☐ GROUP HEALTH PLAN ☐ OTHER ☒ 14. INSURED'S ID NUMBER (For Program in Item 1) PICA ☐

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25. FEDERAL TAX ID NUMBER SSN EIN 26. PATIENT'S ACCOUNT NO. 27. ACCEPT ASSIGNMENT? YES ☒ NO ☐ 28. TOTAL CHARGE \$ 29. AMOUNT PAID \$ 30. Paid by NUCC Use

31. SIGNATURE OF PHYSICIAN OR SUPPLIER INCLUDING DEGREE OR CREDENTIALS (I certify that the statements on the reverse apply to this bill and are made a part thereof.) SIGNED DATE 32. SERVICE FACILITY LOCATION INFORMATION 33. BILLING PROVIDER INFO & PH #

34. PHYSICIAN OR SUPPLIER INFORMATION 35. PROVIDER INFORMATION

NUCC Instruction Manual available at: [www.nucc.org](http://www.nucc.org) PLEASE PRINT OR TYPE APPROVED OMB-9538-1197 FORM 1500 (02-12)

< Step 2:  
DBA Form







## **You make the program work!**

When you use the DBA process, it allows the WVA to collect the necessary assessments from insurance carriers and third party administrators.

With your help, Washington can continue to provide vaccines to protect all children in our state.

## **Stay Connected**

For more information, visit [www.wavaccine.org](http://www.wavaccine.org) and sign up for email alerts.

[info@wavaccine.org](mailto:info@wavaccine.org)

Ph. 888-928-2224

Fax. 888-928-2242



# History of LAIV Relative to Circulating Strains

- **Aug 2003**

LAIV3 approved by FDA

- **Apr 2009**

A/H1N1pdm2009 circulated in United States

- **Feb 2012**

LAIV4 approved by FDA

- **2013-14 influenza season**

- **2014-15 influenza season**

“When immediately available, LAIV should be used for healthy children aged 2 through 8 years who have no contraindications.”

- **2015-16 influenza season**

“No preference is expressed for LAIV or IIV for any person aged 2 through 49 years for whom either vaccine is appropriate.”

- **2016-17 influenza season**

“In light of the evidence for poor effectiveness of LAIV in the U.S. over the last 3 influenza seasons..., for the 2016-17 season, ACIP makes the interim recommendation that LAIV should not be used”

# **Possible Explanations Why VE of LAIV Has Been Low for 3 Seasons**

- Vaccine virus interference in quadrivalent vaccine
- Limited thermostability of A/H1N1pdm09 LAIV strain
- Pre-existing influenza immunity interferes with vaccine strain replication
- Reduced replication of A/H1N1pdm09 LAIV strain in human respiratory cells

## OPTIMAL TIMING OF ANNUAL FLU VACCINE

### WHERE WE'VE BEEN ...

- Initial concern about timing pertained to vaccination of the elderly
  - o From at least the 1990s until the current decade, ACIP cautioned that vaccine-induced antibody to Influenza declines more rapidly in the elderly than in young adults
  - o "Vaccination **before October** should therefore should **be avoided**"
- Later evidence that antibody level at a point several months after vaccination does not necessarily correlate with clinical vaccine effectiveness
  - o Review showed no compelling evidence of quicker decline of vaccine-induced antibody in the elderly compared with young adults
  - o No evidence that seroprotection was lost at 4 months if it was initially achieved after immunization.
  - o Lack of evidence for late-season outbreaks among vaccinated persons that can be attributed to waning immunity
- 2009: "In general, health-care providers should begin offering vaccination **soon after** vaccine becomes available and **if possible by October.**"
  - o Although peak Influenza activity generally does not occur until January-March, flu season can occasionally begin as early as October.
  - o Controlling spread of Influenza requires having as many people as possible immunized before the virus appears in the community (this will limit the number of people that can act as vectors for transmission to others).
- By 2010: "Vaccination efforts should begin **as soon as vaccine is available** and continue through the influenza season, which typically extends through April."
  - o H1N1 Pandemic demonstrated shortfalls in earlier approach, and more robust surveillance demonstrated that flu viruses circulate at some level year-round.
  - o Concern that when an opportunity-to-vaccinate is deferred until later in the season, it might be missed entirely (e.g. because a given individual may not show up in the office again for six months)
  - o Concern that process problems associated with vaccinating large numbers in a limited time frame (e.g. long wait times, inadequate staffing, vaccine shortages) may prevent optimal vaccination of all of those for whom it is necessary.
- NOW: Some shift back ...



## WHERE WE ARE ...

- Current CDC recommendation: “Flu vaccination should begin **soon after** vaccine becomes available, **if possible by October**. However, as long as flu viruses are circulating, vaccination should continue to be offered throughout the flu season, even in January or later.”
- GOAL: Ensure the vaccination of as many persons as possible before influenza activity in the community begins
  - o In any given season, the optimal time to vaccinate cannot be predicted precisely
  - o May be as early as October; however ...
  - o In 74% of influenza seasons since 1982, peak influenza activity occurred in or after January (February or later in 59% of seasons)
- In recent seasons, initial shipments of vaccine have arrived as early as July.
  - o Again raises questions related to the ideal time to begin vaccination
  - o Newer observational studies (2011-2015) report decreased vaccine protection within a single season (especially against A(H3N2)), and a more-pronounced decline in protection among older adults
    - Castilla 2013: Decline in vaccine effectiveness from 61% in 0-100 days post-vaccination > 42% 100–119 days out > -35% (95% CI = -211–41) after 120 days. Primarily affected persons ≥65 years old – OR for influenza in this group was 20.81 (95% CI = 2.14–202.71;  $p = 0.009$ ) for persons vaccinated >120 days before diagnosis compared to those vaccinated <100 days before diagnosis.
    - Pebody 2013: Vaccine effectiveness against A(H3N2) = 53% if vaccinated <3 months ago vs 12% if vaccinated ≥3 months ago.
    - Belongia 2015: Modest but significant increase in the OR for A(H3N2) influenza with time-since-vaccination among young children age 2 & adults age 75. OR increases by 1.2 every 14 days after vaccination for children, & by 1.3 for each 14-day interval for adults aged 75 years.
  - o This has not been observed consistently across age groups and across all flu seasons
  - o Observed decline in protection could be attributable to other factors, e.g. increased circulation of antigenically drifted variants over the course of the influenza season.
- UPSHOT: “**Inconsistent evidence** for intraseason waning of influenza vaccine protection **makes drawing conclusions difficult**, and further evaluation of this effect in larger studies and different seasons is needed.”
  - o Delaying vaccination until later in the season might result in greater immunity later in the season
  - o Deferral might also result in missed opportunities to vaccinate and difficulties in vaccinating a population within a more constrained time period.
  - o GUIDANCE: “Community vaccination programs should balance **maximizing likelihood of persistence of vaccine-induced protection** through the season with **avoiding missed opportunities** to vaccinate or vaccinating after onset of influenza circulation occurs.”