



ASSOCIATION  
OF OCCUPATIONAL  
HEALTH PROFESSIONALS  
IN HEALTHCARE

*Dedicated to the health and safety of healthcare workers*

July 20, 2010

Influenza Coordination Unit, Centers for Disease Control and Prevention  
U.S. Department of Health and Human Services  
Attn: Prevention Strategies for Seasonal Influenza in Healthcare Settings  
1600 Clifton Road NE., MSA-20  
Atlanta, GA 30333

To Whom It May Concern:

The Association of Occupational Health Professionals in Healthcare (AOHP) appreciates the opportunity to comment on *Updated Guidance on Prevention Strategies for Seasonal Influenza in Healthcare Settings*. We would like to comment on three areas.

Under "Specific Recommendations," in section #1, we believe that the most important measure to prevent seasonal influenza infection is annual vaccination. We agree that all strategies to improve the rate of health care personnel (HCP) vaccination should be employed including availability at no cost and access to vaccine during work hours. We agree that mandatory vaccination remains a controversial issue. Increasing compliance for annual vaccination continues to be a challenge for health care institutions.

In section #3, we agree that health care institutions should be strongly encouraged to develop sick leave policies for HCP that are consistent with public health standards to encourage HCP to stay at home if ill with fever and/or symptoms of influenza – like illness.

In sections #4 and 5, we agree on HCP adherence to standard precautions to prevent transmission of infectious agents in health care settings. We believe that the selection of the appropriate equipment for respiratory protection should be based on the best available science and be consistent among federal agencies while offering healthcare workers maximum protection.

AOHP is a national organization over 900 occupational health professionals who work in healthcare settings, primarily hospitals. AOHP's vision is to be the defining resource and leading advocate for occupational health and safety in healthcare. Our mission is dedicated to promoting the health and safety of workers in healthcare. This is accomplished through:

- **A**dvocating for employee health and safety
- **O**ccupational health education and networking opportunities
- **H**ealth and safety advancement through best practice and research
- **P**artnering with employers, regulatory agencies and related associations.

Please contact Alfred Carbuto, our Executive Vice President, if additional information or questions arise. He can be reached at (718) 794-7049 or by email at [acarbuto@montefiore.org](mailto:acarbuto@montefiore.org).

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Sandra Domeracki', is written over a light blue horizontal line.

Sandra Domeracki, RN, FNP, COHN-S  
AOHP Executive President