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More On Influenza  
Side Effects and Adverse Reactions

Three types of systemic reactions to influenza vaccines have been described:

1. Fever, malaise, myalgia and other systemic symptoms of toxicity which begin 6-12 hours after vaccination and persist 1-2 days.
2. Immediate allergic responses such as flare and wheal or various respiratory expressions of hypersensitivity occur extremely rarely.
3. Guillain-Barre' syndrome (GBS) which is an uncommon illness characterized by ascending paralysis that is usually self-limited and reversible. Before 1976 no association of GBS with influenza vaccination was recognized. In 1976, however, GBS appeared in excess frequency among persons who received A/New Jersey/76 swine influenza vaccine (10 cases GBS/1 million vaccinated). Analysis of data from GBS surveillance during the 1978-79 and 1979-80 influenza seasons has not shown a significantly higher risk of GBS in vaccinees compared to non-vaccinees. Persons who receive influenza vaccine should be made aware of this possible risk as compared with the risk of influenza and its complications.

#### VACCINE INFORMATION

As in past years influenza vaccine is available to all health providers from the State Immunization Program. In order to simplify distribution, only split-virus vaccine will be stocked. Orders (by 5.0 ml, 10 dose vials) can be submitted to the Northern Regional Laboratory in Fairbanks, the Immunization Program office in Anchorage, or the Southeast Regional Laboratory in Juneau. Benefit risk information statements will be supplied on request.

ANY SURPLUS OF THE 1979-1980 INFLUENZA VACCINE SHOULD BE RETURNED OR DESTROYED.

**LAST YEAR'S VACCINE SHOULD NOT BE USED IN 1980 - 1981**