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Pages: 1

To: General Practitioners, Practice Nurses, Practice Managers and Health Professionals
From: David Wansbrough, Manager, Immunisation team, Ministry of Health
Subject: **UPDATE – influenza vaccine supply**

Icelandic volcanic eruption and possibility of short term delays in influenza vaccine supplies from France.

Over 750,000 doses of influenza vaccine have been distributed in the 2010 season so far– this is around 100,000 more than at the same time last year and is good news. It is also more than the entire 2008 influenza season.

Our main stock of seasonal influenza vaccine comes weekly from Sanofi and is manufactured in France. The Icelandic volcanic eruption is disrupting flights to and from Europe which may impact vaccine supplies in New Zealand from next week.

There may be some short term delays in influenza vaccine supplies and the Ministry recommends that practices reconsider the scheduling of new vaccination clinics from next week unless you have sufficient vaccine supplies on hand.

We will continue to keep everyone informed as the situation changes.

If you have any queries about anything in this update, please email immunisation@moh.govt.nz or 0800IMMUNE@auckland.ac.nz or phone 0800 466 863 (0800 IMMUNE)



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