



Whatcom County Health Department
1500 N. State Street
Bellingham, WA 98225-4551
Immunization Program: (360) 676-4593
24 hour CD Report Line: (360) 738-2503
Confidential fax: (360) 676-6772
Greg Stern, MD, Health Officer

Immunization Program Update

TO: Whatcom County Grocery stores, Community Centers, Grange Halls, Churches, Casino's, Service Organizations
FROM: Greg Stern, MD
DATE: September 29, 2005
RE: Community Flu Clinics: Steps to Validate Integrity **PAGES: 1**

Community Flu Vaccine Clinics: Six steps you can take to validate their integrity.

We have developed the following recommendations for businesses and organizations that are approached to provide a location for vaccination clinics for employees and/or for the public.

- 1) Obtain full contact information: Record the name of the contact, phone number, address, and business name. Obtain the name of the physician under whose name vaccines are administered. Call the business or physician to confirm sponsorship.
- 2) Obtain the names and professional certification of those administering the vaccine: You can go the Washington State Department of Health website to confirm whether health professional licenses are current and valid. (Go to the site directory menu on the home page at www.doh.wa.gov and click on "Provider Credential Search".)
- 3) Check that adequate supplies are provided: the number of sterile, single-use syringes should match or exceed the number of doses expected to be administered. A proper disposal container for used syringes with needles should also be evident.
- 4) Check the expiration date on the vaccine vials to assure they are unexpired and that the vaccine appears to be for use in the United States.
- 5) People receiving vaccine should be screened for allergies and other medical conditions that are contraindications for receiving vaccine.
- 6) If the health department has announced a vaccine shortage, then there should be evidence that people requesting vaccine are being screened and that vaccine is administered only to those in high-priority groups.

If you have any concern about the legitimacy of vaccine providers, their practices, or the vaccine, please call the Whatcom County Health Department (676-4593) and local law enforcement to report your concern.