



August 16, 2006

To Whom It May Concern:

As a result of the 2003-2004 influenza epidemic, and the resulting recommendations for influenza vaccination in children, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) will continue its collaboration with the Emerging Infections Program Network (EIP) in several states to conduct population-based surveillance for hospitalized children with laboratory-confirmed influenza. The primary objective is to continue surveillance and evaluation of the magnitude of the public health problem in children during the 2006-2007 influenza season.

The National Center for Infectious Diseases has determined that these activities are not research, but rather a combination of active surveillance and program evaluation. As such, they do not need to be reviewed or approved by CDC's Institutional Review Board. The National Center for Immunization and Respiratory Diseases concurs with this determination.

Sincerely,



Diane Simpson M.D, Ph.D.
Acting Associate Director for Epidemiologic Science
National Center for Immunization and Respiratory Diseases