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ONE HUNDRED FOURTEENTH CONGRESS
Congress of the United States
House of Representatives
COMMITTEE ON ENERGY AND COMMERCE
2125 RAYBURN HOUSE OFFICE BUILDING
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February 25, 2015

Dr. Anne Schuchat
Director
National Center for Immunization and Respiratory Diseases
Centers for Disease Control and Prevention
1600 Clifton Road
Atlanta, GA 30333

Dear Dr. Schuchat:

Thank you for appearing before the Subcommittee on Oversight and Investigations on Tuesday, February 3, 2015, to testify at the hearing entitled "Examining the U.S. Public Health Response to Seasonal Influenza."

Pursuant to the Rules of the Committee on Energy and Commerce, the hearing record remains open for ten business days to permit Members to submit additional questions for the record, which are attached. The format of your responses to these questions should be as follows: (1) the name of the Member whose question you are addressing, (2) the complete text of the question you are addressing in bold, and (3) your answer to that question in plain text.

Also attached are Member requests made during the hearing. The format of your responses to these requests should follow the same format as your responses to the additional questions for the record.

To facilitate the printing of the hearing record, please respond to these questions and requests with a transmittal letter by the close of business on Wednesday, March 11, 2015. Your responses should be mailed to Brittany Havens, Legislative Clerk, Committee on Energy and Commerce, 2125 Rayburn House Office Building, Washington, D.C. 20515 and e-mailed in Word format to brittany.havens@mail.house.gov.

Thank you again for your time and effort preparing and delivering testimony before the Subcommittee.

Sincerely,



Tim Murphy
Chairman
Subcommittee on Oversight and Investigations

cc: Diana DeGette, Ranking Member, Subcommittee on Oversight and Investigations

Attachments

Attachment 1—Additional Questions for the Record

The Honorable Marsha Blackburn

1. You testified that first drifted viruses were detected on March 8, 2014. You also testified that over the summer of 2014, drifted viruses were detected in greater proportions. By September 2014, the decision was made by CDC and WHO to include one of these drifted H3N2 viruses in the Southern hemisphere vaccine. So it would seem, you would have had some idea at that point that this year's Northern hemisphere vaccine would not be as effective as in previous years.

About the same time that CDC was looking closely at the drifted flu virus, a Vanderbilt-led study was published. The study shows that a high-dose flu vaccine is 24% more effective in the elderly when compared to the standard dose vaccine. The researchers also concluded that the high dose vaccine is safe.

When it became apparent that this year's vaccine would not protect well against the dominant strain of influenza, did CDC make any recommendations regarding the increase use of the high-dose vaccine in the elderly?

- a. If yes, when was that recommendation made?
 - b. If no, can you explain why you wouldn't recommend a safe vaccine that is felt to be 24% better than baseline?
2. Moving forward, will CDC make a recommendation for a more widespread use of the high-dose flu vaccine for the elderly?

Attachment 2—Member Requests for the Record

During the hearing, Members asked you to provide additional information for the record, and you indicated that you would provide that information. For your convenience, descriptions of the requested information are provided below.

The Honorable Morgan Griffith

1. Please provide all of the approximate mismatch percentages for each month from February 2014 – January 2015.

The Honorable Markwayne Mullin

1. Please provide the language and criteria that is required to declare a public health emergency.