

本署檔號 Our Ref. : (76) in DH SEB CD/8/27/6 VI  
來函檔號 Your Ref :  
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25 October 2006

Dear Doctor,

**Re: Influenza Vaccination Reports in Israel**

In relation to recent media reports concerning four deaths after receiving influenza vaccine in Israel, we have successfully gathered information from the World Health Organization (WHO) and Israel's health authority. We would like to provide you the following update.

According to reply from WHO, the Ministry of Health of Israel temporarily suspended their influenza immunization program between 22 and 23 October 2006, following reports of four deaths which occurred from a few hours to 6 days after administration of influenza vaccine (Vaxigrip). These four men, 52 to 75 years of age, were suffering from underlying chronic cardiac diseases and one of them also had diabetes. Three had received the vaccine at the same health facility. The current state of investigation indicates only a temporal link with immunization in persons with underlying chronic conditions. A causal relationship appears unlikely. Based on the preliminary outcome of investigation, the Ministry of Health of Israel resumed its immunization programme on 23 October 2006, using the same vaccine.

No reports of serious events or lethal outcomes following immunization with the vaccine have been brought to WHO's attention since the start of immunization in the northern hemisphere during the 2006-2007 season.

WHO recommends that at this point in the investigation, there is no reason to stop vaccinating with this particular or any other seasonal influenza vaccine.

Thank you for your kind attention.

Yours faithfully,



(Dr S K CHUANG)

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