



## EUROPEAN VACCINE MANUFACTURERS STAND READY TO HELP COMBAT THE THREAT POSED BY BOTH SEASONAL AND PANDEMIC INFLUENZA

BRUSSELS, Belgium - 24 June 2009 – Members of the European Vaccine Manufacturers group (EVM) today reaffirmed their commitment to assist health authorities, in Europe and around the world, address the public health threat posed by both seasonal and H1N1 pandemic influenza.

- **Seasonal influenza** remains a significant threat, causing an estimated 3-5 million cases of severe disease and 250,000-500,000 deaths each year, with at least 40,000 mortalities in Europe. Consequently, the European Centre for Disease Prevention and Control (ECDC), EU Member States and the WHO recommend vaccination for the elderly and those at risk. As protection against annual influenza remains a priority, manufacturers are continuing to produce seasonal vaccines, in consultation with national health authorities and the WHO, to help ensure that seasonal vaccination is conducted in line with national recommendations. The manufacture of these vaccines is nearing completion, allowing production to be switched to H1N1 vaccines in the coming weeks if requested by national authorities and the WHO.
- **H1N1 pandemic influenza**, which is caused by a novel influenza A (H1N1) strain, poses a new threat to public health that EVM members are working hard to help address. Producers have received seed viruses for vaccine manufacture from the WHO, and have initiated the first steps required for large-scale production. Manufacturers stand ready to move into full-scale production as soon as requested by national authorities and the WHO. Some manufacturers who are not producing seasonal influenza vaccines have initiated full-scale production already.
- **Efficient and equitable distribution of vaccines** will be essential to optimise the utilisation of H1N1 doses, once they are available. By working closely together, public health authorities and vaccine producers can maximise the supply of H1N1 vaccines to help protect citizens across Europe and around the world.

European vaccine producers are better placed than ever to help address the threats posed by both seasonal and pandemic influenza. Manufacturers have been preparing for an influenza pandemic for a number of years, developing new technologies and prototype vaccines, and significantly increasing production capacity. EVM members remain fully committed to helping health authorities in Europe and worldwide address the threats of seasonal and H1N1 influenza.

---

*EVM member companies are major suppliers of vaccines worldwide, producing the majority of vaccine doses in Europe. EVM members are: Baxter, Crucell, GlaxoSmithKline Biologicals, MedImmune, Novartis Vaccines, sanofi pasteur, sanofi pasteur MSD, Solvay Biologicals, and Wyeth Vaccines.*

---

**European Vaccine Manufacturers/EFPIA**

Rue du Trône 108 / Troonstraat 108 • Leopold Plaza Building • B-1050 Brussels, Belgium  
Tel +32 2 626 25 55 • Fax +32 2 626 25 66 • TVA BE.418.762.559 • [www.evm-vaccines.org](http://www.evm-vaccines.org)