

State of California HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES AGENCY



DIANA S. DOOLEY
SECRETARY

October 9, 2015

Olivier Charmeil
President and Chief Executive Officer
Sanofi Pasteur
Discovery Drive
Swiftwater, Pennsylvania 18370

Aging

Child Support
Services

Community Services
and Development

Developmental
Services

Emergency Medical
Services Authority

Health Care Services

Managed Health Care

Public Health

Rehabilitation

Social Services

State Hospitals

Statewide Health
Planning and
Development

Dear Mr. Charmeil:

I am writing to urge you to take any and all steps necessary to promptly address the shortage of the pediatric thimerosal-free influenza vaccine.

While formulations of the thimerosal-free influenza vaccine administered to individuals over the age of three appear to be ample, currently there is a limited supply of the thimerosal-free influenza vaccine to protect California's young children, many of whom will need two doses of vaccine for maximal protection. Given the severe health threat that seasonal influenza presents, the delay could have fatal consequences.

We have very limited information as to why there is a shortage and no commitment as to when the shortage will be resolved. Your company is the only manufacturer in the United States to produce this formulation. I strongly urge you to deploy all resources necessary to address this shortage as soon as possible while preventing such shortage from occurring again so that we can protect our most vulnerable, young children, from the seasonal influenza.

I would ask you to provide us with an immediate and clear timeline on the availability of the thimerosal-free influenza vaccine so that all necessary actions may be taken to protect children. I call on you to redouble your efforts to accelerate the production and delivery of the thimerosal-free influenza vaccine as soon as possible.

I thank you for your urgent attention to this matter. If you have any questions, please feel free to contact, Dr. Karen Smith, Director of the California Department of Public Health and State Health Officer at (916) 558-1700.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads 'Diana S. Dooley'.

Diana S. Dooley
Secretary