

Press Release

30 April 2013

bioCSL Goes Back into Influenza Vaccine Production for Australia

bioCSL announced today that it has recently restarted production of influenza vaccine for the Australian market in response to higher than expected demand this season.

Additional doses are expected to be ready for delivery by the end of May and will be prioritised for age-appropriate at-risk groups under the National Immunisation Program.

bioCSL General Manager, Dr John Anderson said the demand for influenza vaccine had increased significantly in the first two weeks of April in both the public and private markets.

“All our customers are reporting a much earlier and much higher uptake of influenza vaccine this year, compared to the last few years.”

bioCSL is the only manufacturer of influenza vaccine in the Southern Hemisphere and is a major supplier of seasonal and pandemic influenza vaccines to the Australian market. The company also supplies influenza vaccine to overseas markets including the US, UK and New Zealand.

Dr Anderson said that bioCSL was in the midst of producing a new formulation of influenza vaccine for the forthcoming Northern Hemisphere season when it made the decision to go back into production for Australia.

“Restarting production of Southern Hemisphere influenza vaccine is a significant undertaking, but as Australia’s only on-shore manufacturer we are committed to responding to local needs.

“Should the extraordinarily high demand for influenza vaccine persist, we are very pleased to be able to support the Government in ensuring additional doses are available for age-appropriate at-risk groups.”

About bioCSL’s influenza vaccine

bioCSL's seasonal influenza vaccine is an inactivated influenza vaccine is for the prevention of influenza caused by influenza virus types A&B. This vaccine is indicated for use only in persons aged 5 years and over and must NOT be used in children aged under 5 years. It should only be used in children aged 5 years to under 9 years based on careful consideration of potential risks and benefits in the individual.

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About bioCSL

In Australia and New Zealand, bioCSL markets a comprehensive range of vaccines and pharmaceutical products. It manufactures seasonal and pandemic influenza vaccine for global markets. bioCSL also produces products of national significance for Australia, including antivenoms and Q-Fever vaccine, and supplies diagnostic reagents in the Australasia region. bioCSL's cold-chain logistics business provides services for bioCSL and CSL Behring products, as well as commercial and government customers across Australia.

bioCSL is part of the CSL Group which is headquartered in Melbourne Australia. The CSL Group includes CSL Behring, CSL Plasma and bioCSL, and has major facilities in Australia, Germany, Switzerland and the US, with over 11,000 employees working in more than 25 countries.

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