



## Press Release

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### **Recalled flu vaccine not used in military MTFs**

**HEIDELBERG, Germany** – Influenza vaccines that have been recently recalled in both Germany and Italy are not used in military medical treatment facilities.

The vaccines, which are manufactured by the Switzerland-based company Novartis, are being recalled as a precautionary measure because of reports by the company of small particles found in some vials of the vaccine, a Novartis news release stated. There have been no reports of any ill effects from people who have received the vaccines at this point.

Military medical treatment facilities in Europe do not use any of the affected vaccines, a spokesman for the U.S. Army Medical Material Center, Europe (USAMMCE) said.

USAMMCE provides vaccines for all military medical facilities in Europe, and confirmed that they have not purchased any of the vaccines provided by Novartis, the spokesman said. He added that the seasonal flu vaccines being provided to beneficiaries through the MTFs are not affected in any way by this recall.

The dominant strain of influenza during the upcoming flu season is still expected to be the H1N1 strain from the 2009 pandemic. Col. Richard Looney, director of the Army's Military Vaccination (MILVAX) Program said, "H1N1 is still circulating, but due to outstanding efforts and immunization campaigns of the past few years, people are more aware and likely to be adequately protected during the height of flu season."

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“Immunization is the very best protection against disease and related complications. Vaccines are safe and effective, and have saved more lives than any other medical measure in history,” he added.

The recalled vaccines are marketed in Germany under the trade name Begrippal, and in Italy additionally under the trade names Influpozzi sub unita and Influpozzi adiuvato. People who received their seasonal influenza vaccination from host nation medical providers check with their providers if they have any concerns.

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