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**Novartis Vaccines launches online resource for ordering Fluvirin®
Influenza Virus Vaccine for 2008-2009 influenza season**

- *Online portal conveniently allows tailored delivery of Fluvirin® to multiple locations*

Cambridge, MA, February 6, 2008 — Novartis Vaccines announced today the launch of the company's new influenza vaccine online ordering portal, www.NovartisVaccinesDirect.com. Through this site, Fluvirin® Influenza Virus Vaccine is available for convenient ordering in the United States for the 2008-2009 influenza season.

NovartisVaccinesDirect.com was launched to facilitate the vaccine ordering process by offering healthcare providers a one-stop resource for ordering influenza vaccine in addition to providing valuable tools and information about influenza. This convenient and easy-to-use Web site offers a variety of tools to assist with early immunization planning and to help ensure that more people are vaccinated. The development of NovartisVaccinesDirect.com is part of the overall commitment from Novartis Vaccines to provide comprehensive solutions for the prevention of the spread of influenza as well as provide patients of all ages reliable access to vaccines.

The new NovartisVaccinesDirect.com portal offers registered healthcare providers and institutions, subject to applicable terms and conditions, 24 hour/7 days per week online ordering, flexible payment terms, such as buy now, pay later and guaranteed delivery dates. There are also downloadable tools and resources such as patient education materials for healthcare providers to help plan, organize, publicize and operate influenza vaccination clinics and events. For healthcare practices signing up for the VIP (Valued Immunization Partner) value-added tool, a reference library of free patient educational material is also available.

“Novartis Vaccines is committed to increasing access and availability of influenza vaccine to the community to help advance public health,” said Rajiv De Silva, President of Novartis Vaccines in the US. “The addition of NovartisVaccinesDirect.com to our already established distributor network increases access to Fluvirin and allows greater flexibility for healthcare professionals.”

This year, Novartis Vaccines will be working with a variety of distributors. For a list of distributors, please visit www.FluSource.com.

About Influenza

Influenza is a contagious disease of the respiratory tract (nose, throat, and lungs) that can lead to serious complications, such as pneumonia and dehydration, and worsening of chronic medical conditions, such as congestive heart failure, asthma, or diabetes.

Most healthy adults can spread the influenza virus beginning one day before they feel sick and usually continue to be contagious for about five days after, which means the virus can spread to close contacts, such as loved ones and co-workers.

In fact, each year an estimated average of more than 200,000 people in the US are hospitalized and 36,000 die from influenza and its complications. Annual vaccination against this contagious disease is the best way to help protect yourself and those around you who may be at higher risk for complications from influenza.

Additional information about influenza can be found at Novartis Vaccines' influenza Web site, www.FluSource.com.

Important Safety Information

The most common side effect of vaccination with Fluvirin Influenza Virus Vaccine is soreness at the injection site. Less common side effects include fever, malaise, myalgia and allergic reactions. Fluvirin vaccine should not be administered to anyone with a history of hypersensitivity to any component of the vaccine, including eggs, egg products or thimerosal. As is the case with most drugs and vaccines, there is a chance that a serious allergic reaction, serious illness or even death could occur as a result of vaccination with Fluvirin vaccine. Generally, persons should not be vaccinated during an acute febrile illness. Vaccination should be delayed in persons with an active, unstable neurological disorder, but should be considered when the disorder has been stabilized. The occurrence of any neurological symptoms or signs following administration of any vaccine is a contraindication to further use. Fluvirin vaccine is not indicated for use in children under four years of age. Persons should consult with their healthcare providers if they are pregnant and/or are taking other medications.

Fluvirin vaccine may not protect 100% of individuals who are susceptible to influenza. Before administering Fluvirin vaccine, please see full prescribing information.

Disclaimer

This release may contain certain forward-looking statements, relating to Novartis business, which can be identified by the use of forward-looking terminology such as "committed," "will," "can," or similar expressions, or by express or implied discussions regarding potential future sales of Fluvirin. Such forward-looking statements reflect current views of Novartis regarding future events and involve certain known and unknown risks, uncertainties and other factors that may cause actual results to be materially different from any future results, performance or achievements expressed or implied by such statements. There can be no guarantee that Fluvirin will reach any particular level of sales or that the availability of NovartisVaccinesDirect.com will increase sales of Fluvirin. In particular, management's expectations regarding Fluvirin could be affected by, among other things, influenza pandemics or epidemics and/or government impoundment of influenza vaccine; unexpected regulatory actions or delays or government regulation generally; competition in general; unexpected production problems; unexpected clinical trial results, including unexpected additional analysis of existing clinical data and unexpected new clinical data; the ability of Novartis to obtain or maintain patent or other proprietary intellectual property protection; increased government, industry, and general public pricing pressures; and other risks and factors referred to in the Novartis AG's current Form 20-F on file with the US Securities and Exchange Commission. Should one or more of these risks or uncertainties materialize, or should underlying assumptions prove incorrect, actual results may vary materially from those anticipated, believed, estimated or expected. Novartis is providing the information in this press release as of this date and does not undertake any obligation to update any forward-looking statements contained in this press release as a result of new information, future events or otherwise.

About Novartis

Novartis Vaccines and Diagnostics is a division of Novartis focused on the development of preventive treatments. The division has two businesses: Novartis Vaccines and Novartis Diagnostics. Novartis Vaccines is the world's fifth-largest vaccines manufacturer and second-largest supplier of flu vaccines in the US. The division's products also include meningococcal, pediatric and travel vaccines. Novartis Diagnostics, the blood testing and molecular diagnostics business, is dedicated to preventing the spread of infectious diseases through the development of novel blood-screening tools that protect the world's blood supply.

Novartis AG provides healthcare solutions that address the evolving needs of patients and societies. Focused solely on growth areas in healthcare, Novartis offers a diversified portfolio to best meet these needs: innovative medicines, cost-saving generic pharmaceuticals, preventive vaccines and diagnostic tools, and consumer health products. Novartis is the only company with leading positions in these areas. In 2007, the Group's continuing operations (excluding divestments in 2007) achieved net sales of USD 38.1 billion and net income of USD 6.5 billion. Approximately USD 6.4 billion was invested in R&D activities throughout the Group. Headquartered in Basel, Switzerland, Novartis Group companies employ approximately 98,200 full-time associates and operate in over 140 countries around the world. For more information, please visit <http://www.novartis.com>.

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