



Columbia Park Medical Group

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Revaccination Hotline: **1-800-541-1895**
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COLUMBIA PARK MEDICAL GROUP ANNOUNCES REVACCINATION PROGRAM; REFRIGERATION ERROR RENDERS SOME VACCINES POTENTIALLY INEFFECTIVE

Fridley, MN, December 11, 2007 – Columbia Park Medical Group announced today that refrigeration errors may have rendered certain of its vaccine doses potentially ineffective and urged all impacted patients to be revaccinated. A routine audit of its vaccination procedures revealed that some CPMG vaccines were improperly stored at temperatures 2 degrees lower than recommended by the manufacturers. Such temperature variance *does not render the vaccines harmful*, but may make them potentially ineffective for immunizing against the particular disease.

CPMG has confirmed with the Minnesota Department of Health and CPMG physicians that the administered ineffective vaccines *do not pose a health concern* and that revaccination is safe and recommended for most patients to provide the desired immunization against serious disease.

“We deeply regret that revaccination is necessary, but because we cannot be certain that the vaccines were effective, we are taking every precaution to provide optimal protection for our patients,” said Dr. Tom Rolewicz, CPMG’s Chief Medical Officer. “Patient safety is always our top priority, and we are committed to correcting this situation in the best health interests of our patients.”

CPMG has already mailed letters to all patients who received vaccines at Columbia Park Medical Group’s Andover, Columbia Heights, and Fridley clinics between October 2006 and August 2007, providing information on revaccination procedures. CPMG is also seeking the media’s assistance in alerting potentially impacted patients of the opportunity to be revaccinated. Patients may visit CPMG’s Revaccination website at www.cpmg.org to determine whether they need revaccination, or call the Revaccination Hotline at 1-800-541-1895.

The revaccinations will be administered free of charge at special CPMG Revaccination Clinics at Columbia Park Medical Group’s Andover and Columbia Heights locations. The Revaccination Clinics will take place:

Saturday, December 15, 2007 - 8:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m.
Thursday, December 20, 2007 - 6:00 p.m. to 8:30 p.m.
Saturday, December 29, 2007 - 8:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m.

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The Revaccination Clinics will be open on a walk-in basis, with no appointment necessary. Additional information is available by calling the **Revaccination Hotline at 1-800-541-1895** or visiting **CPMG's Revaccination website at www.cpmg.org**.

CPMG has taken prompt action to assure that all vaccines are now stored at the correct temperature at all of its facilities so this type of error does not happen again. All refrigerators at CPMG clinics have been replaced with new scientific refrigerators specifically designed for vaccine storage. The new refrigerators will be carefully monitored for out-of-range temperature (as defined by the Minnesota Department of Health and manufacturer), and equipped with a device that alerts designated personnel to any temperature fluctuations or power failures. CPMG has also revised its vaccine policies and procedures and has extensively trained its staff on the new procedures.

“We are confident that the new measures put into place for storing, monitoring and administering vaccines at Columbia Park Medical Group are among the most rigorous and most effective to ensure effective vaccination,” Dr. Rolewicz said.

CPMG consulted with the Minnesota Department of Health on its vaccine procedures as well as its Revaccination Program. CPMG identified affected patients through a careful audit of vaccine storage logs at all of its locations and a review of individual patient medical records. Sufficient time has been allowed to pass in advance of the Revaccination Program to minimize the possibility of reaction from revaccination. Approximately 4500 patients are believed to be impacted.

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