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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:**

## **ALCOA HOWMET CASTINGS DONATES FLU VACCINE SUPPLY BACK TO THE COMMUNITY**

**(Whitehall, MI)** - Alcoa Howmet Castings announces it is donating its flu vaccine supply of 500 doses to Hackley Hospital for use in the White Lake community for persons in high risk categories. Howmet's inventory was received several weeks ago and intended for use with its employees. Since then, a national flu vaccine shortage has emerged and the United States Centers for Disease Control has issued voluntary rationing guidelines geared toward vaccinating America's high risk population only.

States Dr. Bruce Olson, Infectious Disease Specialist at Hackley Hospital, "This is a very responsible corporate reaction to a serious public health issue and a sign that the community is pulling together in order to get our high risk population immunized. It's a wonderful and much welcomed gesture."

Amy L.H. Heisser, Director of Human Resources at Howmet, states, "We feel fortunate to have received our supply early and have the ability to make this donation."

Annually, approximately 36,000 deaths in the United States are due to influenza with anywhere between five and twenty percent of the population getting the flu. A flu shot can prevent the flu.

The United States Centers for Disease Control recommends the following "priority" individuals get vaccinated against influenza:

- all children aged 6-23 months,
- adults aged 65 years & older,
- persons aged = 2-64 years with underlying chronic medical conditions,
- all women who will be pregnant during influenza season,
- residents of nursing homes and long-term care facilities,
- children 6 months-18 years of age on chronic aspirin therapy,
- health-care workers with direct patient care,
- and out-of-home caregivers and household contacts of children aged < 6 months

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