

EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS BUREAU FLU ADVISORY



VOLUNTEER UPDATE

September 4, 2009

FDA Approves Vaccines for 2009 H1N1 Influenza Virus

The U.S. Food and Drug Administration announced yesterday that it has approved four vaccines against the 2009 H1N1 influenza virus. The vaccines will be distributed nationally after the initial lots become available, which is expected within the next four weeks. The vaccines are made by CSL Limited, MedImmune LLC, Novartis Vaccines and Diagnostics Limited, and Sanofi Pasteur Inc. Based on preliminary data from adults participating in multiple clinical studies; the 2009 H1N1 vaccines induce a robust immune response in most healthy adults eight to 10 days after a single dose. Clinical studies under way will provide additional information about the optimal dose in children. The recommendations for dosing will be updated if indicated by findings from those studies. The findings are expected in the near future. To read the entire press release [click here](#).

The state will be responsible for distributing vaccine to health care and public health providers. Massachusetts health care practices wishing to receive vaccine must complete an [online registration](#). The deadline for registering is October 9, 2009.

Update on Massachusetts

DPH Vaccinator Trainings

In an effort to ensure vaccinator preparedness, DPH is offering vaccinator trainings in several locations across the Commonwealth beginning next week. The target audience for these trainings will be health care professionals that will be assisting with the Influenza vaccination clinics such as nurses, physicians, pharmacists, dentists, paramedics.

The training will cover:

- Initial target groups to receive H1N1 vaccine,
- screening,
- immunization administration (both intramuscular and intranasal) for children and adults,
- vaccine storage and handling,
- standing orders,
- documentation & record keeping,
- adverse event reporting,
- infection control procedures, and available resources.

Each session will allow time for attendees to practice administering both intramuscular injections and intranasal spray. Program length: 4 hours. Continuing education credits will be provided for physicians, nurses, EMTs/paramedics. For more information, or to register [click here](#).

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Seasonal flu vaccine delayed

Due to prioritization of H1N1 vaccine and other challenges, remaining shipments of seasonal flu vaccine may be delayed. The state Department of Public Health (MDPH) has received over 40% of its seasonal flu vaccine supply to date. Remaining doses are expected to become available over the next 4-6 weeks. The majority of doses are still expected by the end of October and all doses expected by early November.

Additionally, doses of both state-supplied and privately purchased pediatric formulation vaccines (0.25ml pre-filled syringes for ≤ 4 years of age) have also been delayed. Currently, less than 30% of the state's total supply is available now; the majority of doses are expected to be delivered by the end of October.

Almost all of the influenza viruses currently circulating are H1N1.

MDPH Recommendations

MDPH recommends that all health care providers continue to vaccinate patients with seasonal influenza vaccine during routine visits and in scheduled clinics as supply allows.

Pediatric providers

MDPH recommends that pediatric providers:

- Continue to vaccinate patients based on their available vaccine supply and formulation types.
- For infants who cannot now be vaccinated due to lack of current supplies, schedule vaccination appointments in late October, when MDPH expects supplies of both state-supplied and privately-purchased pediatric formulation seasonal flu vaccine to be sufficient.
- Plan for *simultaneous* administration of both seasonal and H1N1 flu vaccine starting in mid-late October. H1N1 flu vaccine will become available starting in early October. Young children are one of the highest risk groups for H1N1 influenza. Pediatric providers will be allocated some of the initial doses of H1N1 vaccine that become available in Massachusetts. **Note:** *Doses of the intranasal H1N1 LAIV and seasonal LAIV must be separated by 4 weeks, but you can administer H1N1 and seasonal vaccines simultaneously if one or both vaccines are the injectable vaccine.*

School and public clinics

MDPH is recommending that large public clinics and school based flu clinics be delayed until mid October (and possibly into early November) unless there is sufficient vaccine on hand to meet the expected demand. By mid-October, we anticipate vaccine supplies will be sufficient to mount large clinics efforts. MDPH is advising schools and public health departments to anticipate holding clinics for H1N1 flu vaccine starting in early November as well, and to consider offering both seasonal and H1N1 flu vaccine at these clinics.

In many cities and towns across Massachusetts, local public health and school officials are working together on various ways they might use school facilities to administer flu vaccine to students. This week, the CDC released a very useful series of [tools and resources](#) to help in that planning process.

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Please go to the Department of Public Health's website at www.mass.gov/dph to receive the most up to date information and resources.

CDC Update

This week, a series of vaccine related questions and answers were posted on its website, <http://www.cdc.gov/h1n1flu/>. Included are:

Questions and Answers on 2009 H1N1 Influenza A Vaccine Safety
http://www.cdc.gov/h1n1flu/vaccination/vaccine_safety_qa.htm

Questions and Answers on Guillain-Barré syndrome (GBS)
http://www.cdc.gov/h1n1flu/vaccination/gbs_qa.htm

Questions and Answers on Thimerosal
http://www.cdc.gov/h1n1flu/vaccination/thimerosal_qa.htm

School-Located Vaccination Planning Materials and Templates
<http://www.cdc.gov/h1n1flu/vaccination/slv/>

Questions and Answers on 2009 Influenza (H1N1) monovalent vaccine, *Vaccine Provider Agreement*
http://www.cdc.gov/H1N1flu/vaccination/statelocal/provider_agreement_qa.htm

In addition, two resources: [Asthma Information for Patients and Parents of Patients](#) and [Updated Interim Recommendations for Obstetric Health Care Providers Related to Use of Antiviral Medications in the Treatment and Prevention of Influenza for the 2009-2010 Season](#) were posted.

Lastly, the CDC published an [H1N1 Preparedness Guide for Small Business](#). The guide is intended to help small business plan and help spread the message of preparedness.

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