

EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS BUREAU

FLU ADVISORY

September 25, 2009

VOLUNTEER UPDATE



Update on Massachusetts

As of September 24, 2009, 1406 confirmed cases of H 1 N 1 have been reported throughout Massachusetts. School-aged individuals (5-18 years) have been primarily affected by H 1 N 1, with approximately 63% of cases age 18 or younger. The median age of cases is 14 and cases ranged from 0 to 84 years.

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) is no longer reporting the national total of confirmed cases of H 1 N 1 and is instead focusing on hospitalized cases and deaths. Nationally, influenza-like illness (ILI) continues to increase and some areas of the US are reporting widespread III activity.

Early results from a trial testing of H1N1 (swine) flu vaccine in children look promising. It now appears that children aged 10 to 17 years of age may only require one dose of the H 1 N 1 vaccine, as opposed to the originally expected two doses. The final recommendations for this age group will be released in the coming weeks.

DPH Vaccinator Trainings

This week, DPH launched a series of vaccinator trainings. The trainings are an effort to ensure vaccinator preparedness and are being held in several locations across the Commonwealth. 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,

The training will cover:

- Initial target groups to receive H 1 N 1 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](#).

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 the CDC released an H1 N1 preparation guide for [Community and Faith Based Organizations](#). People often turn to these groups for information and support, which gives these organizations the unique ability to connect with a wide variety of people and provide them with the information and resources they need. The guide contains information on how to communicate effectively with community members; how to help vulnerable and hard-to-reach populations; ideas on how to partner with local governments to assist in vaccine distribution, and how to adjust activities in ways that will help protect people from the flu.

In addition to posting a number of new and updated resources (listed below) on its website, the CDC added Arabic, French, and Russian translations of several influenza guidance documents. The translations are available at <http://www.cdc.gov/h1n1flu/>.

H 1 N 1 Clinicians Questions and Answers

<http://www.cdc.gov/h1n1flu/vaccination/cliniciansqa.htm>

2009-2010 Influenza Season: Information for Pharmacists

<http://www.cdc.gov/H1N1flu/pharmacist/pharmacistinfo.htm>

H1 N1 Flu: Free Materials

<http://www.cdc.gov/h1n1flu/flyers.htm>

H1N1 Flu (Swine Flu): Preparedness Tools for Professionals

Provides resources to help hospital administrators and state and local health officials respond to the H1 N1 flu pandemic

. <http://www.cdc.gov/h1n1flu/tools/>

Updated Q & A: 2009 H1N1 Influenza Vaccine

<http://www.cdc.gov/h1n1flu/vaccination/public/vaccinationqapub.htm>

Updated Q & A: CDC Novel H 1 N 1 Vaccination Planning

<http://www.cdc.gov/h1n1flu/vaccination/statelocal/qa.htm>

Updated Q & A: Antiviral Drugs, 2009-2010 Flu Season

<http://www.cdc.gov/h1n1flu/antiviral.htm>

Updated 2009 H1N1 Influenza Vaccine and Pregnant Women

<http://www.cdc.gov/H1N1flu/vaccination/pregnantqa.htm>

Updated What To Do If You Get Sick

<http://www.cdc.gov/h1n1flu/sick.htm>

Updated Interim Recommendations for the Use of Antiviral Medications in the Treatment and Prevention of Influenza for the 2009-2010 Season

<http://www.cdc.gov/h1n1flu/recommendations.htm>

In addition, the CDC launched a H1N1 Flu Mobile Texting Pilot

<http://www.cdc.gov/mobile/>

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