

EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS BUREAU FLU ADVISORY

October 23, 2009

VOLUNTEER UPDATE



Update on Massachusetts

This week, DPH Commissioner John Auerbach posted [two important messages regarding influenza vaccine on the DPH blog](#). The first, corrects inaccurate media reports regarding vaccine availability to prison inmates. The other, addresses the status of seasonal vaccine in the Commonwealth.

Vaccine Availability

The availability of vaccine at any given provider site continues to be sporadic at this time. Every effort is being made to ensure that providers who serve high-priority groups will receive vaccine as soon as possible. It's important to note that there are no public H1N1 vaccination clinics currently scheduled. This is because, like all other states, Massachusetts has only received a very small allotment of the total amount of H1N1 vaccine expected.

The federal government continues to do everything they can to ensure the efficient distribution of safe and effective flu vaccines as they become available. This situation is sure to continue to evolve, and DPH will do its best to alert local health departments and other community health providers as the situation changes.

The single most effective way to stay informed about the availability of seasonal and H1N1 flu vaccine in your community is by keeping in touch with your health care provider and by visiting <http://flu.masspro.org>, a database of locations currently offering flu vaccines, searchable by zip code.

H1N1 Vaccine Registration Extended

Providers who would like to receive and administer H1N1 vaccine may still register with DPH. For [more information](#) please visit <http://www.mass.gov/dph/h1n1registration>

Influenza Report

As of October 22, 2009, 1436 confirmed cases of H1N1 have been reported throughout Massachusetts since April of 2009. The 2009-2010 influenza season officially started on October 4, 2009. It is important to note that the vast majority of persons with influenza-like illness are not tested. Of those that are tested, only a small percentage of tests are subtyped to determine whether they have H1N1 or another type of seasonal influenza. At this point in the season, most of the cases are likely H1N1. [Full report here](#).

Please continue to go to the DPH's website at www.mass.gov/flu to receive the most up to date information and resources.

CDC Update

Influenza activity continued to increase in the United States this week. Flu activity is now widespread. Nationwide, visits to doctors for influenza-like-illness increased over last week and are higher than expected for this time of year. In addition, flu-related hospitalizations and deaths are increasing as well, and are higher than expected.

The CDC posts [updated 2009 H1N1 vaccine supply and distribution data](#) every Friday at around 12:00pm on their website.

This week, the CDC continued to post a number of new and updated resources on its website, <http://www.cdc.gov/h1n1flu/>. Included are:

New Q & A 2009 H1N1 Flu and You

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

10 FAQs for Immunization Programs and Providers

http://www.cdc.gov/H1N1flu/vaccination/top10_faq.htm

New Antiviral Safety Information Webpage

http://www.cdc.gov/H1N1flu/antivirals/safety_info.htm

Q & A Opening and Mixing Tamiflu® Capsules with Liquids if Child Cannot Swallow Capsules

http://www.cdc.gov/H1N1flu/antivirals/mixing_tamiflu_qa.htm

Updated: What Adults with HIV Infection Should Know About 2009 H1N1 Flu

http://www.cdc.gov/h1n1flu/hiv_flu.htm

Updated: Interim Recommendations—HIV-Infected Adults and Adolescents: Considerations for Clinicians Regarding 2009 H1N1 Influenza

http://www.cdc.gov/h1n1flu/guidance_HIV.htm

Q & A: NEJM article "Hospitalized Patients with 2009 H1N1 Influenza in the United States- April-June 2009

http://www.cdc.gov/h1n1flu/njem_qa.htm

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