

EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS BUREAU FLU ADVISORY

October 30, 2009

VOLUNTEER UPDATE



Update on Massachusetts

As of October 29th, more than 480,000 doses of H1N1 vaccine have been distributed to providers in Massachusetts. A total of 3.5 million doses of vaccine are expected this flu season. This is not where public health officials expected to be at this point based on information initially provided by the federal government, and it creates a difficult and frustrating situation for everyone, especially those people at greatest risk of complications from the H1N1 flu.

These initial limited supplies have been prioritized for distribution to the health care providers who serve populations at the highest risk of H1N1 flu -- children and pregnant women. DPH has posted [additional guidance for pregnant women](#) who have been unable to locate vaccine on their blog. Vaccine has also been prioritized for health care workers with direct patient contact in light of their vital role in ensuring a functioning health care system.

As vaccine supplies arrive in larger quantities, more and more providers will receive vaccine for their patients. Vaccine will then be targeted to young adults up to 24 years old and people 25-64 with chronic health problems. Eventually, flu clinics for the general public will begin. However, they won't be scheduled until there are large enough quantities of vaccine available to support them. Based on current projections from the CDC, these flu clinics will not likely be feasible until December. All H1N1 clinics will be posted at: <http://flu.masspro.org>. It is important to note that no H1N1 vaccination clinics are listed at this time.

This vaccine supply situation is complex and confusing. For further details on how vaccine arrives in the state, the role of DPH in that process, and how providers receive word on upcoming vaccine availability [click here](#).

Providers with questions about H1N1 vaccine registration, allocation or reporting to the DPH should contact the H1N1 Provider Help Desk.:

- Toll free at 888-578-5585
- 617-983-6898
- Email MDPHH1N1Registration@state.ma.us

Influenza Report

As of October 29, 2009, 1478 confirmed cases of H1N1 have been reported throughout Massachusetts since April of 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. At this point in the season, most of the cases are likely H1N1. [Click here to read the full report](#).

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

During the week of October 18-24, 2009, influenza activity continued to increase in the United States from the previous week. Visits to doctors for influenza-like illness (ILI) increased steeply since last week in the United States, and overall, are much higher than what is expected for this time of the year. ILI activity now is higher than what is seen during the peak of many regular flu seasons. Total influenza hospitalization rates for laboratory-confirmed flu are climbing and are higher than expected for this time of year. Hospitalization rates continue to be highest in younger populations with the highest hospitalization rate reported in children 0-4 years old. Forty-eight states are reporting widespread influenza activity at this time.

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

In addition, the CDC posted a number of new and updated resources on its website, <http://www.cdc.gov/h1n1flu/>. Included are:

Updated: 2009 H1N1 Flu: Free Resources

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

H1N1 Influenza A (H1N1) 2009 Monovalent Vaccine Dosage Chart

http://www.cdc.gov/h1n1flu/pdf/monovalent_vaccine_dosage_chart.pdf

Q & A: Prevention of Pneumococcal Infections Secondary To Seasonal And 2009 H1N1 Influenza

http://www.cdc.gov/h1n1flu/vaccination/public/public_pneumococcal.htm

For Providers: Prevention of Pneumococcal Infections Secondary To Seasonal And 2009 H1N1 Influenza Viruses Infection

http://www.cdc.gov/h1n1flu/vaccination/provider/provider_pneumococcal.htm

Peramivir IV Questions and Answers for Health Care Providers

http://www.cdc.gov/h1n1flu/EUA/pdf/peramivir_qa.pdf

Contact Us

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