

# EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS BUREAU FLU ADVISORY

November 13, 2009

## VOLUNTEER UPDATE



### Update on Massachusetts

This week, health officials sadly announced the first H1N1-related death in Boston this fall. The patient, a 65-year-old Boston man, had multiple underlying health conditions. He was hospitalized on October 14<sup>th</sup> and died October 31<sup>st</sup>. On November 9th, state health officials were notified that state laboratory test results came back positive for H1N1. This is the first death linked to 2009 H1N1 influenza (swine flu) in Boston this fall, and the 14th in Massachusetts since the pandemic began in the spring.

As of November 12, 2009, 1,659 confirmed cases of H1N1 have been reported throughout Massachusetts since April of 2009. To read this week's complete influenza report [click here](#).

### H1N1 Vaccine

DPH continues to receive allocations of H1N1 vaccine. Close to 875,000 doses of H1N1 vaccine have been distributed to healthcare providers throughout Massachusetts. While doses are still being shipped primarily to pediatric and obstetrical offices, DPH has begun to allocate limited quantities to local public health departments across the state.

Although Massachusetts has only received approximately 25% of the total amount of vaccine ordered, if the federal government's projected timeline for distribution does not change, DPH anticipates that providers will be able to schedule public clinics for the highest priority groups in the coming weeks. Each local public clinic may decide how they wish to allocate their H1N1 vaccine doses, as long as they adhere to the federal guidelines regarding priority groups. For example, a clinic may decide to vaccinate only pregnant women who are residents of their town or, conversely, they could choose to hold a clinic for all of the priority groups regardless of residence.

**Reminder:** All providers receiving vaccine must report back to DPH on a weekly basis. This allows DPH to track the number of doses administered. Providers may also refine requests for additional vaccine and ask for different formulations on the reporting form.

Questions about H1N1 vaccine registration, allocation or reporting should be directed to the DPH H1N1 Provider Help Desk:

- Toll free at 888-578-5585
- 617-983-6898
- Email [MDPHH1N1Registration@state.ma.us](mailto:MDPHH1N1Registration@state.ma.us)

Individuals should stay informed about the availability of seasonal and H1N1 flu vaccine in their community by keeping in touch with their health care provider and by visiting <http://flu.masspro.org>, a database of locations currently offering flu vaccines, searchable by zip code.

Please continue to go to the DPH's website at [www.mass.gov/flu](http://www.mass.gov/flu) to receive the most up to date information and resources.

### **Vaccinator Training**

DPH will offer six additional live vaccinator trainings in November and December. The target audience for these trainings is health care professionals that will be assisting with vaccinations at influenza vaccination clinics such as nurses, physicians, pharmacists, dentists and paramedics. These 4 hour trainings cover the background of seasonal and pandemic influenza, vaccine overview with screening, storage and handling, standing orders, documentation & record keeping, adverse event reporting, infection control procedures and immunization administration (both intramuscular and intranasal) for children and adults. A 20 minute video covering "Immunization Techniques" will be shown. Each session will allow time for attendees to practice administering both intramuscular injections and nasal influenza spray.

Please Note: Registration begins 30 minutes prior to the start of the program. Attendees should plan to be on time and stay for the entire session. Students should wear short sleeves shirts for easy access to the upper arm for the injection practice component and wear closed -toed shoes.

To register for a live event, please go to: [www.adcare-educational.org](http://www.adcare-educational.org)

### **On-line Vaccinator Training Option**

*Massachusetts Responds: A Vaccinator Training* is an on-line educational tool and CME activity based upon DPH's live vaccinator training sessions. The format is a 3-module program in the areas of: 1) definition of influenza types, 2) the principles of vaccine management, and 3) a description of vaccine preparation and administration techniques. Resource materials include all of the handouts, templates and forms utilized in the live sessions.

To access the on-line course, please go to: [www.massmed.org/cme/dphtraining](http://www.massmed.org/cme/dphtraining).

### **World Health Organization Releases Revised Guidance on Clinical management of Human Infection with Pandemic (H1N1) 2009**

*November 12, 2009*

Although most cases of H1N1 are mild, preventing severe cases will save lives and lighten the burden on health care systems. This updated guidance emphasizes early treatment with antivirals for those who have flu symptoms and are more at risk for serious illness, or those with rapidly worsening symptoms. People who have already developed pneumonia should be given both antivirals and antibiotics to save lives.

[Read more about clinical care for pandemic influenza patients](#)

### **CDC Update**

During the week of November 1-7, 2009, influenza activity remained high in the United States. Flu activity is widespread in 46 states. Nationally, visits to doctors for influenza-like-illness declined slightly from last week, but are still very high. Flu-related hospitalizations and deaths continue to increase and are very high nation-wide compared to what is expected for this time of year.

The CDC provides [updated 2009 H1N1 vaccine supply and distribution data](#) daily 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 this week are:

Information for Pregnant Women Working in Education, Child Care,  
and Health Care Settings, Concerning 2009 H1N1 Influenza Virus  
<http://www.cdc.gov/h1n1flu/guidance/pregnant-hcw-educators.htm>

2009 H1N1 and People with Diabetes  
<http://www.cdc.gov/h1n1flu/diabetes/>

FAQs on Use of Influenza A (H1N1) 2009 Monovalent Vaccines  
Practical Considerations for Immunization Programs and Providers  
[http://www.cdc.gov/H1N1flu/vaccination/top10\\_faq.htm](http://www.cdc.gov/H1N1flu/vaccination/top10_faq.htm)

Interim Guidance: Considerations Regarding 2009 H1N1 Influenza in Intrapartum and  
Postpartum Hospital Settings  
<http://www.cdc.gov/h1n1flu/guidance/obstetric.htm>

Letter to Providers Promoting PPSV (Pneumococcal Vaccine) for Adults  
<http://www.cdc.gov/h1n1flu/vaccination/provider/lettertoprovider.htm>

Key Issues for Clinicians Concerning Antiviral Treatments for 2009 H1N1  
<http://www.cdc.gov/H1N1flu/HAN/110609.htm>

Contact Us  
**MSAR**

[www.mass.gov/MSAR](http://www.mass.gov/MSAR)  
[msar@dph.state.ma.us](mailto:msar@dph.state.ma.us)

**MEDICAL RESERVE CORPS OF MASSACHUSETTS**  
[www.mamedicalreservecorps.org](http://www.mamedicalreservecorps.org)  
[rhecchio@mamedicalreservecorps.org](mailto:rhecchio@mamedicalreservecorps.org)

This e-mail newsletter was produced by the Massachusetts Department of Public Health in collaboration  
with the Massachusetts Medical Society.



Massachusetts  
Department of  
Public Health



MASSACHUSETTS  
MEDICAL SOCIETY

External links to websites and e-mail addresses are provided to give readers an opportunity to access additional  
information. The MDPH and MMS are not responsible for content in these external sources.

© Copyright 2009 Massachusetts Medical Society. All Rights Reserved.