



STATE OF NEW HAMPSHIRE
DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES
DIVISION OF PUBLIC HEALTH SERVICES

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Date: August 10, 2009

TO: Medical Providers
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FROM: Marcella J. Bobinsky
NH Immunization Program Manager

SUBJECT: 2009-2010 Flu Seasons

Plans for the 2009-2010 flu season are beginning to take shape. As you are probably well aware, this flu season, or seasons, will be distinct from recent years in that we will likely be distributing two flu vaccines – the seasonal trivalent vaccine and a monovalent vaccine against Novel A H1N1 influenza. As some critical information is not yet available to make hard and fast decisions about the plans outlined below, be assured that you will be updated throughout the season.

Seasonal Influenza Vaccine Supply and Distribution

1. The New Hampshire Immunization Program (NHIP) hopes to begin taking orders for influenza vaccine on the 24th of August for distribution after September 1. We pre-booked approximately 50,000 more seasonal flu doses than we distributed during the 2008-2009 influenza season. At this time we understand that MedImmune will have their FluMist® available and other products will be available in early to mid September. NHIP will send order forms for the influenza vaccine within the next week.
2. The NHIP strongly recommends that you follow the Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices (ACIP) recommendations. The most recent recommendations are contained in the July 24, 2009/Vol. 58 of the MMWR at www.cdc.gov/mmwr.

School-based Immunization Clinics

3. The ACIP recommends that all children ages 6 months through 18 years of age be immunized against influenza, both seasonal and Novel A H1N1. In the state of New Hampshire, this population group exceeds 300,000. The Division of Public Health Services is encouraging the school districts and private schools throughout the state to consider the option of organizing community partners to vaccinate the students (and staff) against seasonal influenza in the schools. This recommendation is based upon several factors including, this is a large number of children, the economic impact on parents to leave work to get their child/ren to a medical provider, and because of the potential to overwhelm the medical offices during a time when ill individuals need to access care.
4. School-based clinics will require the support of local communities and statewide organizations. The DPHS is working with the education community, the medical associations, regionally based Public Health Regions (All Health Hazard Regions), home health organizations, public relations

professionals and insurance companies to focus their attention on the primary benefit that will come from our success – healthy kids and healthy schools.

5. NHIP is aware that informing the medical home and tracking 2009-2010 immunization doses are important elements in this community effort and DPHS continues to explore how this might best be accomplished.

Novel A H1N1 Vaccine Supply and Distribution

6. The Novel A H1N1 vaccine is undergoing clinical trials. At the time of this writing, each dose will contain 15 micrograms of antigen. No adjuvant will be added. Preservative free products will be limited but available as a nasal spray, a single dose syringe and a single dose vial for young children and pregnant women. Vaccines for older children and adults will be delivered in 5 dose vials. The number of doses coming to New Hampshire is unknown at this time.
7. DPHS is looking at a number of dispensing scenarios depending on the national supply of vaccine and the demand for vaccine. In some scenarios, the Novel A H1N1 vaccine may be dispensed through mass vaccination clinics and/or school-based clinics. In other scenarios, our communities may be better served by dispensing the H1N1 vaccine in the same manner as the seasonal flu vaccines.
8. All Novel A H1N1 vaccine providers will be required to register with the New Hampshire Immunization Program and sign an agreement authored by the federal government. This includes current VFC providers, hospitals, retail establishments, home health care providers, occupational health organizations, etc.
9. If you have questions, please send an email to mbobinsky@dhhs.state.nh.us.