

MEMO

TO: local public health units, private healthcare providers and hospitals, Indian Health Services, pharmacies, and other immunization providers

FROM: Molly Sander, MPH
Immunization Program Manager

RE: H1N1 Vaccine Priority Groups

DATE: November 13, 2009

If H1N1 vaccine supplies allow, providers may now begin vaccinating anyone recommended to receive H1N1 vaccine by the Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices (ACIP). The ACIP recommends the following individuals be vaccinated with novel H1N1 vaccine (in no particular order):

- Pregnant women
- Household contacts and caregivers for children younger than 6 months of age
- Healthcare and emergency medical services personnel
- All people from 6 months through 24 years of age
- People ages 25 through 64 years who have health conditions associated with higher risk of medical complications from influenza.

People not included in the above groups should not yet be vaccinated with novel H1N1 influenza vaccine. As a reminder, children ages 6 months – 9 years need two doses of H1N1 vaccine separated by at least 4 weeks. Vaccine should not be held for second doses.

If your H1N1 vaccine supplies do not allow for vaccination of all or some of the above priority groups, then the North Dakota Department of Health (NDDoH) recommends prioritizing in the following order:

1. Pregnant women, healthcare workers with direct patient contact (excluding long-term care), children ages 6 months – 18 years (including second doses for children ages 6 months – 9 years), and household contacts and caregivers of infants younger than 6 months.
2. People ages 19 – 64 with chronic medical conditions
3. Healthy people ages 19 – 24 and all other healthcare workers, including long-term care

At this time, the NDDoH will continue to distribute H1N1 vaccine to the current providers receiving vaccine. The NDDoH will not be distributing to long-term care facilities, pharmacies, college health centers or other specialized providers until larger quantities of vaccine are allocated to the state each week. The NDDoH anticipates larger quantities of vaccine to be allocated during the first week in December.

Please contact the NDDoH Immunization Program with any questions at 701.328.2378 or toll-free at 800.472.2180.