

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: Week 8: H1N1 Influenza Vaccine

DATE: November 19, 2009

Providers are encouraged to continue to use the flu clinic locator at www.ndflu.com/FluClinic.aspx. The public needs to know where H1N1 vaccine is available and who it is available for. The flu clinic locator will reduce the number of calls that your facility receives about H1N1 vaccine availability.

Many states are seeing a decrease in the public demand for H1N1 vaccine. Providers are encouraged to vaccinate as soon as H1N1 vaccine is available and while vaccine demand in North Dakota is still high.

If your facility has excess H1N1 vaccine, please contact the North Dakota Department of Health (NDDoH) at 800.472.2180.

Priority Groups: (No change from last week)

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 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.

H1N1 Vaccine Shipments:

The NDDoH will be closed on Thursday, November 26th for Thanksgiving. Next week, the NDDoH will be driving vaccine to provider offices on Tuesday, November 24th only. During the week of Thanksgiving, McKesson will only be shipping vaccine on Monday.

Weekly Estimates of H1N1 Vaccine (11/13/2009):

The federal government has again revised the estimates of H1N1 vaccine that will be allocated to states. The estimates were changed to reflect less doses being allocated to the state last week. The estimates also now include the GlaxoSmithKline H1N1 vaccine that was recently approved by the FDA. The estimates are posted at www.ndflu.com.

NDIIS and Scanning:

If your facility is scanning into the NDIIS, you may have noticed that many doses are not yet showing up in the NDIIS. There have been data quality issues with the scanning that are being corrected at the NDDoH. The data is getting better and it is anticipated that by the end of this week, many doses will be uploaded to the NDIIS.

Providers can assist the NDDoH in improving the scanning data by filling out the scanning forms completely, including your facility's provider number and the lot number of the vaccine being administered.

CSL H1N1 Vaccine Age Indication Changes:

On November 11, 2009, the FDA expanded the approved use of CSL's seasonal and 2009 H1N1 influenza vaccines to include children aged 6 months and older. Both vaccines had previously been approved only for use in adults, ages 18 and older. The immediate effect on the national H1N1 flu vaccination program is that CSL's pre-filled syringe and multi-dose vial formulations can now be used in a substantially broader range of ages. CDC is making a programmatic recommendation and issuing clarifying guidance on use of CSL H1N1 vaccine that takes into account practical logistical

considerations of allocation, ordering, and distribution of vaccine and ancillary supply kits.

Both the CSL H1N1 pre-filled syringe and multi-dose vial vaccine formulations should be reserved for individuals ages 3 and older if alternative products are available.

Using the CSL H1N1 pre-filled syringe vaccine in children ages 6-35 months would result in wastage of one dose per syringe. Since children ages 6-35 months would only require a half dose of this vaccine, only half of the contents of the syringe could be used. Transfer of some or all of the contents of one syringe to another syringe is not permissible nor is using the same syringe to administer the latter half dose to another individual. Therefore, the only option is to discard the remaining half dose. With the current limited supply and availability of vaccine nationwide, CDC discourages using a half dose of CSL H1N1 pre-filled syringe vaccine on a child ages 6-35 months and discarding the remaining half dose.

While CSL's H1N1 multi-dose vial vaccine is now licensed for use in individuals ages 6 months and older, CDC is treating this formulation as being for use in individuals ages 3 years and older for the purpose of allocating and ordering vaccine and ancillary supply kits (the multi-dose vial kits used for all H1N1 vaccines contain supplies that are intended for use in children and adults aged 3 years and older). CSL H1N1 multi-dose vial vaccine formulation will continue to be ordered as a 100 dose (0.5mL per dose) minimum order size and CDC will allocate one multi-dose vial ancillary supply kit for each 100 doses of multi-dose vial vaccine. If providers choose to administer half doses of the multi-dose vial formulation to children ages 6-35 months, they will effectively be short half the number of needle/syringe units, alcohol pads, vaccination record cards and sharps containers. Providers will be required to use their own ancillary supplies to make up the difference and print out additional shot cards from the CDC website (www.cdc.gov/flu/freeresources/2009-10/pdf/influenza_record_card2009.pdf). This situation also applies to the Sanofi Pasteur multi-dose vial vaccine formulation that is licensed for individuals aged 6 months and older.

Fundamental of Influenza Vaccine Administration, Storage, and Handling:

CDC conducted a webcast on November 13 about influenza vaccine administration, storage, and handling. This webcast is now archived at www.cdc.gov/vaccines/ed/ciinc/specialtopics/2009_flu.htm.

Weekly H1N1 Provider Updates:

H1N1 Provider Updates are Wednesdays at 10:00 a.m. (Central Time). Local public health units will meet with the NDDoH before hand at 9:30. All local public health units and hospitals will be connected Wednesdays from 9:30 a.m. CT until 11 a.m. CT. If your facility does not want to be connected, please contact Dan Stephenson at dstephenson@nd.gov.

Connection Options:

- Videoconference – Contact the closest local public health unit or hospital to check for availability and to make a reservation.

- Teleconference – Dial 866.888.3385.
- Webcast – To watch from your computer, follow these steps:
 - Step 1 – Prior to the first time viewing an NDDoH webcast, please check that your computer has the necessary software installed. Follow the link www.ndhealth.gov/webcasthtml/preflight for a test.
 - Step 2 – Follow the link www.ndhealth.gov/WebcastHigh.aspx to view the webcast.

The video feed will start 30 minutes prior to the scheduled broadcast time. For technical support, please call 866.716.1274 (beginning at 8:30 a.m. CT). If you have any questions, please contact the North Dakota Department of Health at 701.328.1326 or icliaison@nd.gov.

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