

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 9: H1N1 Influenza Vaccine

DATE: November 24, 2009

The North Dakota Department of Health (NDDoH) will begin allocating H1N1 vaccine to long-term care facilities and college/university health centers this week. H1N1 Flumist® will be allocated to college/university health centers for administration to healthy individuals in the below priority groups. Injectable H1N1 influenza vaccine will be allocated to long-term care facilities for vaccination of staff and eligible residents in the below priority groups. Please check the flu allocation website at www.ndflu.com/Vaccine/vaccineallocations.aspx for more information.

Priority Groups:

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 you facility has excess H1N1 influenza vaccine (more than what is needed for the above groups), please contact the NDDoH at 800.472.2180.

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

H1N1 Vaccine Shipments:

The NDDoH will be closed on Thursday, November 26th for Thanksgiving. Due to the Thanksgiving holiday, the NDDoH will only be making one allocation this week on Tuesday, November 24. It is anticipated that the November 24th allocation will be delivered next week on Tuesday, December 1.

Weekly Estimates of H1N1 Vaccine (11/20/2009):

The federal government has again revised the estimates of H1N1 vaccine that will be allocated to states. The estimates were changed to reflect more doses being allocated this week and less doses being allocated the next two weeks. Estimates are only available through the week ending December 4, 2009. The estimates are posted at www.ndflu.com.

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.