

STATE OF CONNECTICUT

DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC HEALTH



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TO: Healthcare Providers

FROM: J. Robert Galvin, M.D., M.P.H., M.B.A.
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DATE: August 31, 2009

SUBJECT: Pre-registration for Health Care Providers Interested in Receiving and Administering the 2009 H1N1 Influenza Vaccine

The primary purpose of this communication is to gauge provider interest in participating in an H1N1 influenza vaccination campaign later this fall by pre-registering providers who would be interested in receiving and administering H1N1 vaccine when it becomes available.

H1N1 Vaccine

In April 2009, the first cases of a novel influenza virus (H1N1) were identified in the United States. In June, the World Health Organization declared an influenza pandemic. In response to this declaration, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) has contracted with several different manufacturers to develop an H1N1 vaccine. The vaccine is expected to be licensed and ready for distribution by this fall (approximately mid-October).

Five manufacturers have been contracted to produce pandemic influenza vaccine for this fall - in both inactivated injectable and live attenuated nasal spray forms. The federal government plans to purchase and ship the vaccine at no cost to providers or recipients.

The CDC issued H1N1 vaccine recommendations in July with the main goal to get as many people as possible vaccinated with a very broad initial target population, but having guidance for further prioritization when necessary. If supplies are initially limited, certain recipients may be prioritized - once vaccine is widely available, those priorities will be dropped and vaccine will be encouraged for anyone who wants to be vaccinated.

At this point, several critical unknowns remain. These include: the quantities that will be initially available (though roughly 100 million doses are projected to be available in the first month of distribution); whether two doses will be necessary (and if so, for whom); the timing of initial availability (probably October); administration fees, insurance coverage and federal reporting requirements.

The Immunization Program is initiating a **pre-registration** process for licensed healthcare providers interested in administering H1N1 vaccine. There is no cost to pre-register and registered providers



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are not committed to provide vaccine. Pre-registration is necessary to collect the shipping and contact information to allow the state to have vaccine shipped directly to each individual provider's office. Providers will have the opportunity to order vaccine as it becomes available on a Vaccine Order Form (VOF) specific for H1N1. The minimum vaccine shipment size will be 100 doses and will be shipped in 100 dose increments, regardless of whether the vaccine is in multidose vials, preloaded syringes, or nasal sprayers.

Storage and Handling Requirements

Many providers already receive state supplied vaccine through the Vaccines For Children (VFC) Program and are familiar with the storage and handling requirements of vaccines. However, many providers may not currently administer vaccinations or have adequate storage for H1N1 vaccine. Additional information on vaccine storage and handling is available at <http://www2a.cdc.gov/vaccines/ed/shtoolkit/>.

Providers who want to receive H1N1 vaccine will need to meet the following requirements:

- Have a refrigerator capable of maintaining vaccine at a continuous temperature between 35^o- 46^o Fahrenheit. (see attachment: refrigeration storage capacity for storing influenza vaccine)
- Monitor and record the temperature in the unit twice a day (in the morning and again at the end of the day) with a calibrated thermometer.
- Maintain proper storage and handling of the vaccine according to nationally recognized practices.
- Agree to only administer H1N1 vaccine to the nationally recommended priority groups.

(Dormitory style refrigerators are not acceptable storage units due to concerns that they do not maintain proper storage temperatures)

Pre-Registration Process for H1N1 Vaccine

To pre-register for H1N1 vaccine the accompanying Provider Agreement and Provider Profile must be completed, signed and returned. Complete only one provider agreement and provider profile for each potential vaccination site, office, or satellite office, even if there are multiple vaccinators at each site. Electronic signatures are acceptable on these agreements. Both completed forms can be faxed to the Immunization Program at (860) 509-8371. **Forms must be received by September 18, 2009.** Providers currently enrolled in the VFC program should still complete the forms, as this is a separate program. For those providers that already receive vaccine from the Immunization Program, please remember to put your PIN (Provider ID Number) in the upper right hand corner of both forms. Providers not currently receiving vaccine will be assigned a PIN once their completed paperwork has been received. The pre-registration information and question and answer documents for H1N1 will also be available at www.ct.gov/ctfluwatch/providers.

If you have any questions about the H1N1 pre-registration process, please contact Mick Bolduc of the Immunization Program at (860) 509-7929 or via e-mail at michael.bolduc@ct.gov.