



## H1N1 Provider Briefing

Date: September 30, 2009  
To: All Healthcare Providers  
From: Director of Health, David R. Gifford, MD, MPH  
Re: Information on H1N1 in Rhode Island

**Local Influenza Activity Level:** Regional<sup>1</sup>, H1N1 predominant circulating strain  
**Rhode Island**<sup>2</sup>: 2 hospitalized cases, 0 deaths  
**National Report**<sup>3</sup>: 10,082 hospitalized cases, 936 deaths  
**Sentinel Surveillance (% of visits due to influenza-like illness):** Rhode Island: 3.3%, New England Region: 1.7%, Nation: 4.1%

HEALTH will continue to release Wednesday provider briefings throughout the 2009-2010 flu season. Additional Monday briefings may be issued going forward. Please check <http://www.health.ri.gov/news/flu/> regularly for up-to-date information. HEALTH released an additional provider briefing this past Monday. Topics covered include information about updated antiviral recommendations, new CDC guidance for pharmacists (including information about dosing with Tamiflu for Oral Suspension), and revised ACIP recommendations regarding pneumococcal vaccines. To read the full briefing, see <http://www.health.ri.gov/news/H1N1Advisories/Briefings/provider092809.pdf>.

### Provider enrollment for H1N1 vaccine ends soon

HEALTH has created an online enrollment, reporting and ordering system for providers who want to administer H1N1 vaccine. All providers are eligible to enroll in order to provide H1N1 vaccine to their patients. To enroll in the H1N1 Vaccination Program, go to <http://pandemic.health.ri.gov/h1n1>. (Note that this is not a “www” address.) Enrollment has been extended through October 2, 2009, but providers, **including subspecialists**, who treat pregnant women, children under the age of 5, and patients with chronic, underlying medical conditions should enroll immediately, so that patients who are at the highest risk for complications from H1N1 can be vaccinated. **Because shipments of the H1N1 vaccine will not arrive all at once, providers who treat patients in the ACIP-recommended priority groups will receive the vaccine first.** After all priority groups have been offered H1N1 vaccine, HEALTH will complete vaccine orders for the remaining population.

HEALTH has created a pre-registration instruction sheet and an information/FAQ sheet to help providers enroll in the vaccine program. These documents appear at the end of this briefing. Providers who have additional questions about the enrollment process can contact 401-222-8022 or [vaccine@health.ri.gov](mailto:vaccine@health.ri.gov).

### Tamiflu available from area pharmacies for uninsured patients

HEALTH has delivered limited amounts of Tamiflu, an antiviral drug, to Stop & Shop, Rite Aid, and CVS pharmacies for people without insurance who are prescribed antiviral drugs. Starting Monday, October 5, uninsured patients with valid prescriptions can visit these pharmacies to receive one free course of antiviral treatment. Providers must indicate “state supply” on the face of these prescriptions or use verbal orders indicating that the state supply should be used. Patients who present to the pharmacy with designated

<sup>1</sup> Rhode Island reported Regional activity for the week of September 20-26. Influenza is circulating in 2 regions of the state. For details see <http://www.health.ri.gov/flu/about/surveillance/>.

<sup>2</sup> Influenza-associated hospitalizations and deaths since September 1, 2009

<sup>3</sup> Influenza and pneumonia-associated hospitalizations and deaths from August 30 – September 19, 2009

## **WASH HANDS/ALCOHOL GEL SNEEZE IN ARM STAY HOME WHEN SICK**

prescriptions who have insurance should be processed through their insurance plans. Providers should note that the priority for antiviral use continues to be in people with more severe illness (such as people hospitalized with influenza) and people at increased risk of flu-related complications.

### **Remind patients with flu-like symptoms to stay home when sick**

Social isolation is one of the best ways for people with the flu to avoid spreading their illness to others. Remind patients with flu-like symptoms to stay home and avoid contact with other people as much as possible, except to seek medical care. People should stay home from work, school, travel, shopping, social events, and public gatherings until they have been fever-free for at least 24 hours without the use of fever-reducing medications. People who work in healthcare settings should stay home for 7 days after the onset of symptoms or until symptoms disappear, whichever is longer. Remind patients who must leave home to wear a facemask if they have one, cover their coughs and sneezes with a tissue, and wash their hands often. HEALTH has developed guidance for those caring for sick persons at home. Providers who wish to print this guidance for their patients may download it at <http://www.health.ri.gov/news/H1N1Advisories/CareOfIndividualsInTheHome.pdf>.

### **Seasonal flu vaccine update**

H1N1 has had an impact on seasonal flu vaccination efforts. In accordance with CDC's recommendation, seasonal flu vaccination started six weeks earlier than in prior years here in Rhode Island. We want to remind providers that seasonal vaccination efforts will continue throughout the flu season along with the H1N1 vaccination campaigns. All seasonal flu vaccine that has been received has been distributed to providers. As always, we encourage providers to be flexible with clinic plans. For more information about seasonal flu vaccine availability and ordering, please refer to our September 23 provider briefing:

<http://www.health.ri.gov/news/H1N1Advisories/Briefings/provider092309.pdf>.

### **Resources**

- HEALTH at <http://www.health.ri.gov>; <http://www.health.ri.gov/flu/for/providers>
- Archived provider briefings and regular news updates: <http://www.health.ri.gov/news/flu/>
- H1N1 Information Line (M-F 8:30am- 4:30pm) 401-222-8022
- H1N1 email address [h1n1@health.ri.gov](mailto:h1n1@health.ri.gov)
- <http://www.flu.gov>

**WASH HANDS/ALCOHOL GEL SNEEZE IN ARM STAY HOME WHEN SICK**



**WASH HANDS/ALCOHOL GEL SNEEZE IN ARM STAY HOME WHEN SICK**

## **Pre-Registration Information and Instructions for Providers Interested in Administering Novel H1N1 Pandemic Influenza Vaccine**

The U.S. Government will provide federally funded vaccine against the 2009 H1N1 pandemic influenza virus for all U.S. residents. Final details of this vaccination campaign are being determined; however, according to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), enough vaccine will be available within 6 months of the beginning of vaccine distribution to meet U.S. demand. All Rhode Island facilities that provide immunizations and intend to receive and administer this vaccine **must pre-register** with the Rhode Island H1N1 Enrollment Application located on HEALTH's website at <http://pandemic.health.ri.gov/h1n1/>. The deadline for enrollment has been extended to October 2, 2009. Practices that see pregnant women and/or children under the age of 5 should enroll immediately, since they will be the first to receive H1N1 vaccine.

### **Key Points on Vaccine Registration:**

- Registration is open to facilities located in Rhode Island. Facilities in other states should contact their local or state health departments.
- There is no cost to register.
- There is no obligation to order vaccine.
- Registered providers will receive email updates to assist with H1N1 vaccine administration planning. (Up to 3 individuals may be designated to receive email updates.)
- Registered providers will receive further ordering information and instructions as the vaccine becomes available.
- Information emailed to registered providers also will be archived on HEALTH's website in an H1N1 Provider Resources section.
- Only those who agree to the terms of the final provider agreement and complete an order breakdown will receive vaccine.
- The state of Rhode Island cannot guarantee the timing or size of individual vaccine shipments.
- The facility only needs to be registered one time.

### **Phase 1: Enrollment / Registration**

- You will need the following information to submit the application:
  - Your Pediatric SSV number or Adult AV number, if you are currently enrolled in either of these vaccine programs (Your current SSV or AV profile will be automatically uploaded.)
  - If you are not currently enrolled in SSV or AV, you will need:
    1. The name and license number of your organization's lead physician / Medical Director
    2. Medical Director/Office Mgr/Vaccine Mgr (on-site) contact name/phone/fax/email
    3. Delivery address, days and hours available for vaccine delivery
    4. A general estimate of how many patients you plan on vaccinating (patient count, not doses)
    5. Information regarding your POD-sites, if applicable (Healthcare Service Region Hospitals only)
- When finished, please print a copy of the *Congratulations!* Page and record your new H1N1 Provider PIN for placing orders and reporting doses administered. Keep a copy of all completed paperwork for your files.
- **Note:** To view consecutive screenshots of the online H1N1 vaccine provider registration, ordering, and reporting process, see <http://pandemic.health.ri.gov/h1n1/resources/ppt/h1n1-provider-functions.pdf>.

### **Phase 2: Orders/Priority Group Breakdown:**

- Providers will be required to breakdown the number of patients that are intended to receive the H1N1 vaccine by 10 different priority groups.
- Vaccine will be distributed based on the priority groups that the CDC / Department of Health are targeting at that time or by specialty vaccines for specific priority groups (e.g., Flumist for pediatricians, preservative free vaccine for pregnant women, etc.).

**WASH HANDS/ALCOHOL GEL SNEEZE IN ARM STAY HOME WHEN SICK**

**Phase 3: Reporting/Tracking Requirements:**

- Providers will be required to record an aggregate count of doses administered on a weekly basis through an H1N1 Tracking Application (still in development).
  - Reporting will be based on 1<sup>st</sup> or 2<sup>nd</sup> dose and age groups established by the CDC.
  - Reporting will be required by 2:00 pm every Monday, reporting activity for the previous Sunday – Saturday.
- Providers will be required to submit patient information for doses administered to any individual under the age of 19 to KIDSNET. Depending on your current KIDSNET status, information may be reported electronically, HL7 protocol, or by datasheet submission.
  - KIDSNET data is to be reported weekly.
- Providers will be required to report as necessary via VAERS web application or VAERS paper form for any patients having an adverse reaction to the H1N1 vaccine.
  - VAERS Website URL: <http://vaers.hhs.gov/>
  - VAERS Web application: <https://secure.vaers.org/scripts/VaersDataEntry.cfm>
  - VAERS paper form may be downloaded at [http://vaers.hhs.gov/pdf/vaers\\_form.pdf](http://vaers.hhs.gov/pdf/vaers_form.pdf)
- Providers will be required to maintain patient records regarding H1N1 immunization for a minimum of 5 years.



**WASH HANDS/ALCOHOL GEL SNEEZE IN ARM STAY HOME WHEN SICK**

## **H1N1 Vaccine Program 2009-2010: Provider Information and Frequently Asked Questions**

### **Program Enrollment and Registration**

In order to receive H1N1 vaccine, providers must enroll at <http://pandemic.health.ri.gov/h1n1/> and complete an H1N1 vaccine order and priority group breakdown. The deadline for enrollment has been extended to October 2, 2009. Practices that see pregnant women and/or children under the age of 5 should enroll immediately, since they will be the first to receive H1N1 vaccine.

**Question:** Why won't the system accept my Adult AV number when I try to enroll?

**Answer:** You may be trying to enter your AV number on the State Supplied Vaccine Program screen (Step 2 in the enrollment application process). Click "No" when asked if you are enrolled in the SSV program, then click the blue button to proceed to the next screen (Step 2B), where you may enter your AV number.

**Note:** To view consecutive screenshots of the online H1N1 vaccine provider registration, ordering, and reporting process, see <http://pandemic.health.ri.gov/h1n1/resources/ppt/h1n1-provider-functions.pdf>.

### **H1N1 Vaccine Order/Priority Group Breakdown**

When pre-booking H1N1 vaccine, providers will be asked to provide a general estimate of the total number of patients to be vaccinated during the 2009-2010 campaign and to break this number down into **10 different priority groups**:

1. Pregnant women (all ages)
2. Infants 6 to 24 months of age
3. Children 25 to 59 months of age
4. Household contacts and caregivers of infants younger than 6 months of age
5. School-aged children (K-12)
6. Young adults 19 to 24 years of age
7. Healthcare workers and first responders
8. Adults 25 to 49 years of age (high risk AND non-high-risk)
9. Adults 50 to 64 years of age (high risk AND non-high-risk)
10. Adults 65+ years of age

**HEALTH will use these estimates to distribute H1N1 vaccine to ACIP-recommended priority groups.** After all priority groups have been offered H1N1 vaccine, HEALTH will complete vaccine orders for the remaining population.

**Question:** How should I classify patients who fall into more than one of the 10 priority groups?

**Answer:** Each individual should only be accounted for once. The priority lists are organized from highest to lowest. Providers should fill in the information in that order, classifying individuals in their highest eligible priority group.

**Question:** Do I need to report the number of high risk and non-high risk individuals in the 25 to 49 years and the 50 to 64 years of age priority groups separately, or is it sufficient to report one total number?

**Answer:** Providers must report the number of high risk and non-high risk individuals in these two age groups separately. If there is not enough vaccine for the entire Rhode Island population, HEALTH will need to prioritize by risk factors for those last to receive the vaccine.

### **H1N1 Vaccine Reporting/Tracking Requirements**

The CDC and the State of Rhode Island require weekly reporting of H1N1 vaccine doses administered (including a separate weekly KIDSNET report for individuals under 19 years of age). In addition, providers must maintain patient vaccine administration records for a minimum of 5 years and use the Vaccine Adverse

**WASH HANDS/ALCOHOL GEL SNEEZE IN ARM STAY HOME WHEN SICK**

**WASH HANDS/ALCOHOL GEL SNEEZE IN ARM STAY HOME WHEN SICK**

Event Reporting System (VAERS) to report any adverse events. H1N1 vaccine reporting requirements can be found at <http://pandemic.health.ri.gov/h1n1/resources/H1N1%202009%20Reporting%20Requirements.pdf>

**Additional Resources**

- H1N1 Practice/Facility Home Page: <http://pandemic.health.ri.gov/h1n1/>
- H1N1 Vaccine Provider Enrollment Application: <http://pandemic.health.ri.gov/h1n1/action/register>
- H1N1 Vaccine Provider Documentation and Resources: <http://pandemic.health.ri.gov/h1n1/resources/>
- Screenshots of the H1N1 vaccine provider enrollment, ordering, and reporting process: <http://pandemic.health.ri.gov/h1n1/resources/ppt/h1n1-provider-functions.pdf>

**WASH HANDS/ALCOHOL GEL SNEEZE IN ARM STAY HOME WHEN SICK**