

"To improve the health of our communities by identifying sustainable solutions to community health issues, developing partnerships for implementation of strategies, and demonstrating our success through measurement of outcomes."

HEALTH ALERT NETWORK HEALTH DISTRICT 4

UPDATE: NOVEL INFLUENZA A/H1N1

Please circulate to all clinical and support staff as soon as possible.

Initial Vaccination Target Groups, Community Vaccination Plans,
Lab Testing Priorities, Information on Vaccine Availability for Medical Practices
and Additional Resources for Clinicians.

September 25, 2009

I. INITIAL NOVEL INFLUENZA A/H1N1 VACCINATION TARGET GROUPS

It is likely that only limited quantities of vaccine will initially be available. Following Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) and Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices (ACIP) recommendations, the following persons are top priorities for vaccination:

- Pregnant women
- Household and caregiver contacts of children younger than 6 months of age (e.g. parents, siblings and daycare providers)
- Children and young adults aged 6 months through 24 years
- Health care and emergency medical services personnel
- Persons aged 25 through 64 years who have medical conditions associated with a higher risk of influenza complications

As vaccine becomes more widely available persons 25 through 64 years of age without medical conditions will become eligible for vaccination. As demand is met for this age group, persons age 65 and older will become eligible.

IMPORTANT REMINDER: Although the 2009-2010 trivalent, seasonal influenza vaccine has an *A/Brisbane/59/2007/H1N1-like* component, **THE SEASONAL VACCINE DOES NOT PROVIDE PROTECTION AGAINST NOVEL INFLUENZA A/H1N1.**

II. COMMUNITY VACCINATION CAMPAIGNS SCHEDULED TO BEGIN IN MID-OCTOBER

- The first shipments of vaccine are expected to be distributed in Idaho by mid-October. Central District Health Department (CDHD) plans to establish and staff large, off-site, **Points of Dispensing clinics (PODs)** in each of the counties it serves. Currently plans call for 2 clinic sites in Ada County, 2 in Boise County, 1 in Elmore County and 2 in Valley County. The PODs will operate extended hours and offer free vaccinations to all eligible persons. More information about days and hours of operation will be forthcoming.
- **Immunization Strike Teams** comprised of CDHD staff and Medical Reserve Corps volunteers will provide vaccine to public school students and staff and homeless populations who want it.

- A special “closed” POD will be scheduled for health care workers in private practices and clinics.

More information will be provided via subsequent Health Alert messages and via media outlets.

III. PRIORITIES FOR H1N1 TESTING THROUGH THE IDAHO BUREAU OF LABORATORIES (IBL)

IBL does not provide routine testing for suspected influenza A/H1N1 cases. However, IBL will accept specimens that meet at least one of the following criteria: the person has a fever and cough; and/or a sore throat and:

- The **person is hospitalized** or severely ill
- The **person works in the hospital** setting
- The **person is pregnant**
- The person is **part of an outbreak or cluster of cases** in a facility (e.g. school, workplace, daycare, etc.)*

*Please call the Office of Communicable Disease Control and Public Health Preparedness at 327-8625 to determine if specimens should be submitted to IBL as part of an outbreak.

IV. REPORTING CONFIRMED CASES OF NOVEL INFLUENZA A/H1N1

- Only **laboratory confirmed cases** of novel H1N1 should be reported to CDHD.
- Reports may be **faxed (208) 327-7100** or **phoned in (208) 327-8625**.
- Providers do not need to report positive results from Rapid Influenza Diagnostic Tests (RIDTs).
- Quest Diagnostics and LabCorp are two commercial laboratories that have been approved to offer confirmatory testing. (See “Priorities for H1N1 Testing Through the Idaho Bureau of Laboratories”)

V. VACCINE AVAILABILITY FOR PRIVATE PROVIDERS AND OTHER HEALTH ORGANIZATIONS

When the need to immunize priority groups is met and more vaccine becomes available private providers may request an allotment of novel influenza A/H1N1 vaccine for their patients. A formal provider agreement will be required between the Idaho Department of Health and Welfare and the provider. More information will be forthcoming.

VI. ON-LINE RESOURCES AND LOCAL CONTACTS

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) provides current information for clinicians, laboratorians, pharmacists and health officials on dozens of important topics. Go to www.cdc.gov/h1n1/flu

For information on Central District Health Department’s current H1N1 activities and past Health Alert Network (HAN) messages go to www.cdhd.idaho.gov. Patients with general questions may be referred to the CDHD Influenza Hotline at (208) 321-2222.

Information on novel influenza A/H1N1 in Idaho is available at <http://healthandwelfare.idaho.gov/Health/PanFluHome/H1N1/tabid/892/Default.aspx>

WATCH FOR ADDITIONAL HEALTH ALERTS IN THE NEXT FEW WEEKS!

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