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*"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

**Please distribute to all physicians and clinical staff.**

### Physician Update: Availability and Recommendations for **Seasonal** Influenza and **Novel H1N1** Influenza Vaccines--2009

August 13, 2009

#### **Seasonal Influenza Vaccine (SIV)**

SIV should become readily available by mid to late August. Highlights of the Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices' (ACIP) recommendations for 2009 seasonal influenza include:

- Administering the annual seasonal influenza vaccine to all children 6 months to 18 years of age;
- **The seasonal influenza vaccine does not offer protection against novel H1N1 influenza**;
- Vaccination efforts for seasonal influenza should begin as soon as vaccine is available and throughout the influenza season.

Complete information on the ACIP recommendations for the 2009-10 seasonal influenza season can be found in the Morbidity and Mortality Weekly Report, July 31, 2009/Vol. 58/No.RR-8 at <http://www.cdc.gov/mmwr/preview/mmwrhtml/rr58e0724a1.htm>

Central District Health Department (CDHD) will only offer **seasonal influenza vaccinations** to all children 6 months through 18 years of age and newly arriving refugees. All other persons will be referred to their doctor or a local seasonal influenza vaccine provider.

#### **Novel H1N1 Influenza Vaccine**

Although the CDC does not expect a shortage of novel H1N1 influenza vaccine, the vaccine will only be available in limited quantities beginning sometime in mid-October with subsequent shipments arriving weekly.

The following at-risk populations are considered the target groups for receiving novel H1N1 influenza vaccination:

- Pregnant women
- Close contacts of children younger than 6 months of age
- Healthcare and emergency medical services personnel
- All children and young adults from 6 months through 24 years of age
- Persons aged 25-64 years who are at high risk for H1N1 influenza because of chronic health conditions or compromised immune systems

**For initial distribution, we will request that those with an established health care provider bring a doctor's note verifying their medical condition (e.g., pregnancy, diabetes, cancer, etc.).** This will help ensure that those at the greatest risk for poor health outcomes will receive protection first.

As vaccine shipments continue to arrive, those in lower tiers of the priority groups and those not in a priority group will be able to receive the vaccine.

As with other vaccines, we ask that health care providers use VAERS to report adverse events that are caused by the administration of either the seasonal or novel H1N1 influenza vaccines.

### **Provisional Distribution Plans**

CDHD is preparing to receive, distribute, and administer the novel H1N1 influenza vaccine. CDHD is currently solidifying plans to provide vaccine within 72 hours of receipt to pregnant women and close contacts of children under 6 months of age. CDHD will be utilizing mass point-of-dispensing sites to vaccinate people in target groups as quickly and efficiently as possible. Distribution and administration plans for other high priority groups will be implemented once subsequent shipments of vaccine arrive. Information from the CDC indicates that we will receive weekly vaccine shipments following the initial push until all has been distributed.

CDHD is basing its plans and response to the upcoming influenza season on many assumptions. Further guidance from the state and federal government is anticipated and may alter current planning efforts.

Current information will also be posted at the CDHD website at [www.cdhd.idaho.gov](http://www.cdhd.idaho.gov)

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