

MaineHealth

Weekly H1N1 Update Newsletter
December 4, 2009

*Welcome to the MaineHealth H1N1 Weekly Update Newsletter
A Publication of the MaineHealth H1N1 Workgroup*

About this Newsletter:

This publication will be released each Friday throughout the fall and early winter to assist healthcare providers and infection prevention specialists in preparing for the effects of the H1N1 virus on the Maine population.

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Quick Hits:

- **H1N1 on the Decline in Maine:** The Maine CDC reports fewer hospitalizations, emergency room visits and outpatient visits this past week. School absenteeism has also declined.
- **H1N1 Vaccine Supply:** There has been an increase in vaccine supply this past week, which is expected to continue. The Maine CDC remains very focused on vaccinating high-priority groups and more clinics are planned. Much of the H1N1 vaccine supply expected to arrive in Maine next week will be the intranasal form.
- **Scam Alert:** A potentially fraudulent email asking for personal information about people who have been vaccinated is circulating. Do not open foreign links. If you have any questions about the authenticity of an email, contact your IT support or your CDC Project Officer.
- **H1N1 Call Center Partners with 211 Maine:** The Maine CDC announced a new partnership with 211 Maine to provide the public with greater access to information and guidance about H1N1 via telephone and the web.
- **Public Clinics for Young Children:** Planning is now complete for a series of H1N1 clinics for young, pre-school aged children around Cumberland County. Clinics will be **open to children between the ages of 6 months and 5 years**. Only H1N1 vaccine will be offered (not seasonal). **People do not have to be from the town where the clinic is located to attend.** A table of clinic dates and locations is included in this newsletter.

Maine CDC Update:

H1N1 appears to be on the decline in Maine. Over the past week:

- Fewer hospitalizations, emergency room visits and outpatient visits for H1N1 and Influenza Like Illness.
- School absenteeism declined.

While the Maine CDC is still very focused on addressing the current H1N1 surge, they are also planning strategies to address future surges and ongoing circulation of H1N1.

This week's statistics:

- Hospitalizations: 25 people were hospitalized due to H1N1, all adults and most with underlying medical conditions.
- Deaths: Two deaths reported, both in older adults with serious underlying medical conditions.

H1N1 Vaccine Supply: The CDC has seen a significant increase in vaccine supply this week, which is expected to continue over the next several weeks. The Maine CDC has been aggressively distributing vaccine to larger numbers of health care providers this week. By next Monday, it anticipates 140,000 doses will have been distributed across Maine, bringing the total amount of distributed vaccine to about 340,000 doses. This amount covers about 40% of high risk people, and about 22% of all Maine residents. 50,000 doses are expected to arrive next week.

- The CDC continues to focus on vaccinating high priority groups. There are still about 350,000 - 400,000 Maine people in high priority groups who have not had access to vaccine.
- Much of the H1N1 vaccine supply expected to arrive in Maine next week will be the intranasal form. More public clinics for high priority populations are expected in the next 1 – 2 weeks. The CDC plans to distribute some nasal spray to residential college campuses before the winter holidays. It asks that health care providers consider using the intranasal form to increase vaccination in this target group.
- **Maine CDC priority groups for vaccination are:**
 - **All children 6 months – 18 years of age**
 - **Pregnant women**
 - **Caregivers and household members of infants younger than 6 months old**
 - **Adults 18 – 64 years of age with the most severe chronic medical conditions****
 - **Health care personnel with frequent direct contact with infectious materials, and hospitalized inpatients who are at high risk (pregnant women, children, and high-risk adults older than 65)**

Scam Alert!: The CDC has received reports from providers about a potentially fraudulent email asking for personal information about people who have been vaccinated. The email appears to come from the CDC and directs people to a fake website. Do not click on embedded links to sites that are not familiar to you. If you receive such an email or have questions about the authenticity of emails received from the CDC, verify the authenticity of the email with an IT specialist in your agency or you may contact your Project Officer to verify that the sender is a CDC employee.

H1N1 Call Center: The Maine CDC announced a new partnership with 211 Maine to provide the public with greater access to information and guidance about H1N1 via telephone and the web. With the Maine CDC's oversight, the trained staff at 211 Maine will provide free, confidential flu-related information and referrals between 8 a.m. and 8 p.m., seven days a week. 211 Maine will also maintain up-to-date information on flu vaccine clinics on its website. The Maine CDC has been fielding about 200 calls per day.

Health Care Providers:

Planning is now complete for a series of H1N1 clinics for young, pre-school aged children around Cumberland County. Clinical leadership for each clinic will be provided by VNA Home Health & Hospice/Mercy, HomeHealth VNA, or Portland Public Health. Assistance will be provided by school nurses and Emergency Medical Associations in many towns, as well as the host sites. Portland Public Health would like the Portland provider community to help them in passing on the information about these clinics to parents and other care givers (see below).

H1N1 Clinics for Young Children: Clinics will be **open to children between the ages of 6 months and 5 years**. Only H1N1 vaccine will be offered (not seasonal). **People do not have to be from the town where the clinic is located to attend**. Children must be accompanied by a parent (unless the child is part of an organized daycare group that has worked with the clinic coordinator and collected signed consent forms in advance). Parent consent forms will be available at the door. These clinics are for first doses; a smaller round of booster clinics will be held in January – dates and locations to be determined. Third party insurance will be billed (parents should bring their insurance card with them). Patients without insurance will not be charged.

CLINIC DATES and LOCATIONS

Date	Time	Town	Place	Address
12/4/09	8:30 am – 4:00 pm	Portland	Adams School	54 Moody Street
12/7/09	9:00 am – 1:00 pm	Windham	Our Lady of Perpetual Help	919 Roosevelt Trail
12/8/09	9:00 am – 1:00 pm	Gorham	St. Anne's Church	299 Main Street
12/9/09	9:00 am – 1:00 pm	Scarborough	St. Maximilian Kolbe Church	150 Black Point Road
12/9/09	9:00 am – 1:00 pm	Gray	Gray Country Day School	119C Portland Road
12/10/09	9:00 am – 1:00 pm	Freeport	Freeport Fire Station	Main Street
12/11/09	9:00 am – 1:00 pm	Standish	Standish Community Center	175 Northeast Road
12/14/09	9:00 am – 1:00 pm	Yarmouth	Sacred Heart Church	326 Main Street
12/15/09	9:00 am – 1:00 pm	South Portland	St. John the Evangelist Church	29 Aspen Avenue
12/16/09	9:00 am – 1:00 pm	Falmouth	Falmouth Congregational Church	267 Falmouth Road
12/16/09	9:00 am – 1:00 pm	Bridgton	Bridgton Municipal Building	3 Chase Street
12/17/09	9:00 am – 1:00 pm	Raymond	Raymond Public Safety Building	1443 Roosevelt Trail
12/18/09	9:00 am – 1:00 pm	Westbrook	St. Anthony's Church	Brown Street

Supplies:

Many health care organizations continue to face severe supply chain shortages, especially with regard to Personal Protective Equipment (PPE). To help address this issue, the Southern Maine Regional Resource Center has identified access to four additional brands of NIOSH-approved N95 Particulate Respirators for purchase:

- Gerson N95 NIOSH Approved cup-style Particulate Respirator 1730
- Radnor® N95 NIOSH Approved Particulate Respirator With Adjustable Nose Clip
- Liberty 1895N: N95 NIOSH Approved
- Moldex 2200N95 NIOSH Approved Particulate Respirators

All of the respirators listed above are available immediately through Gloves, Etc., Inc., 1 Diamond Street, Biddeford, ME 04005 Tel: (800) 987-2999 * Fax: (207) 286-3267.

Full details, including prices, are provided in the attached document.

Please contact Gloves, Etc. directly to inquire further and to place orders. Let them know that Southern Maine Regional Resource Center referred you!

Publisher:

If you have additional questions or suggestions for this newsletter, please feel free to contact the publisher.

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