

MaineHealth

Holiday Edition H1N1 Newsletter
December 31, 2009

Maine CDC Update: Flu continues to decline in Maine and the rest of the United States. There were no new deaths due to H1N1 reported this week and only 3 new hospitalizations were reported last week, down from 9 the previous week, all in individuals aged 50-64. Two of these were admitted to intensive care.

The 17 H1N1-related deaths since August have occurred in people with underlying health conditions, the vast majority with multiple serious underlying conditions. **People with underlying health conditions should seek vaccine at their primary care providers, specialty providers, or at public clinics listed at www.maineflu.gov and 211. Anyone with underlying health conditions who experiences flu-like symptoms should contact his or her health care provider immediately** to receive a prescription for antiviral medications (such as Tamiflu®).

H1N1 Vaccine Supply and Prioritization

The Maine CDC expects to have close to 700,000 cumulative doses of H1N1 vaccine in the state by January 4th – enough for more than half of the state’s population. The nasal spray vaccine is generally more available than injectable vaccine. **The CDC is requesting that nasal spray vaccine be given to anyone who is eligible to receive it. The nasal spray vaccine is a safe and effective vaccine option for healthy people ages 2 through 49 years old who are not pregnant.** For more information on nasal spray vaccine, please see the CDC Fact Sheet at: http://www.maine.gov/dhhs/boh/maineflu/LAIV_factsheet.pdf.

There have been delays in the distributing of vaccine over the past two weeks, primarily due to federal CDC holiday shipping schedules and, to some degree, the state shutdown day. The CDC expects these delays to dissipate the first week of January, though snowstorms in Maine or on the East Coast could cause additional delays. This has resulted in providers not receiving their expected weekly supply. The CDC is working diligently to ensure that traditional health care providers (hospitals, private practices, health centers, home health agencies, municipal health departments) have sufficient vaccine. The CDC is increasingly distributing vaccine to other health care providers, such as those in employment and in retail settings. Offering vaccine in these other settings will help serve many people who may have difficulty obtaining vaccine in traditional health care settings and should help reduce the burden on traditional health care providers.

Please note that **all H1N1 vaccine providers and/or administrators must submit the vaccine administration data into Maine CDC's weekly vaccine reporting system.**

The weekly vaccine reporting form can be found at:

<http://www.maine.gov/dhhs/boh/maineflu/h1n1/health-care-providers.shtml>. Detailed instructions are also available at:

<http://www.maine.gov/dhhs/boh/maineflu/h1n1/H1N1-Weekly-Reporting-Form-instructions.pdf>.

Health Care Providers: Recent delays in distribution have had an impact on many providers' vaccine supply. The Maine CDC has developed guidance to help providers replenish their supplies. **If a health care provider is running low on H1N1 vaccine, the provider should:**

- Confirm that orders have been placed for all the vaccine that is needed. Providers may order more by completing the form found at this site:
<http://www.maine.gov/dhhs/boh/maineflu/h1n1/hc-providers/h1n1-vaccine-orderform.shtml>.
- **Please note:** it often takes 7-10 days to replenish a health care provider's vaccine supply. If a provider has **acute vaccine needs** or other related concerns or questions, email flu.questions@maine.gov or call the Immunization Program at: 287-3746 or toll free at 1-800-867-4775 Monday – Friday 8 am – 5 pm.
- **If local vaccine supplies are not sufficient while awaiting more vaccine, the Maine CDC recommends focusing the limited supply on those patients in the five high priority groups** (pregnant women, people ages 6 months through 24 years-old, people 25 through 64 years-old with an underlying medical condition, caregivers and household contacts of infants younger than 6 months, and health care workers). Patients can also be referred to public clinics which can be found by calling 211 or checking www.maineflu.gov.
- **When a health care provider's vaccine supply is sufficient, the CDC recommends that the provider offer vaccine to every patient at every visit, as long as there are no contraindications for receiving vaccine.** It is important to take advantage of this window of opportunity (declining disease burden and expanded vaccine supply) to encourage vaccination.
- Health care providers who have sufficient supplies and no longer need vaccine that is being shipped to them should contact their local vaccine coordinator to arrange for redistribution.

Public Vaccine Clinics: Many public clinics have been scheduled for January. For the most up to date information please see the clinic locator at: www.maineflu.gov. If you are running a public clinic, please make sure to document it on the Maine CDC clinic locator.

- Maine Medical Center will be hosting a public clinic on January 5th and 6th, in the East Tower, Classroom 1 from noon to 8 pm. All outpatients, families of employees, and the general public may stop in and be vaccinated.
- Portland Public Health, in collaboration with local partners, will be sponsoring a series of public clinics for Cumberland County over the next several weeks. Please share the following information with providers and patients.

CLINIC DATES and LOCATIONS

Date	Time	Town	Place	Address
12/30/09	9:00 am – 3:00 pm	Brunswick	Parkview Hospital	329 Main Street
*12/30/09	10:30 am – 4:30 pm	Scarborough	St. Maximilian Kolbe Church	150 Black Point Road
*01/04/10	10:30 am – 12:30 pm	Westbrook	Westbrook Pointe Apartments	26 Prospect Street
01/05/10	12:00 pm – 8:00 pm	Portland	Maine Medical Center East Tower (Park in Congress St. Garage)	22 Bramhall Street
01/06/10	12:00 pm – 8:00 pm	Portland	Maine Medical Center East Tower (Park in Congress St. Garage)	22 Bramhall Street
*01/08/10	10:30 am – 12:30 pm	Portland	The Root Cellar	94 Washington Ave.
*01/08/10	2:00 pm – 4:30 pm	South Portland	South Portland Recreation Center	21 Nelson Road
*01/10/10	10:45 am – 1:00 pm	Portland	Sacred Heart Church	Mellon & Sherman Streets
*01/13/10	5:30 pm – 6:30 pm	Portland	West End Neighborhood Council Meeting, Reiche School	166 Brackett Street

Notes:

* Clinic hosted by VNA Home Health & Hospice in partnership with Mercy Hospital.

Vaccinating Small Children: Due to national production delays and the recent recall of 0.25 mL pre-filled syringes, the Maine CDC recommends the following for vaccinating small children:

- Use the Sanofi or CSL multidose vial for all children ages 6 months to two years of age.
- Use the nasal spray vaccine for healthy children ages two years and older, when available and appropriate.
- Use the Sanofi or CSL multidose vial for children ages two and older who are not eligible to receive nasal spray vaccine, or when nasal spray is unavailable.

For More Information:

- www.maineflu.gov
- Health Care Providers' Clinic Consultation Line: **1-800-821-5821**, available 24 hours per day
- Public Information and Referral Line: **211**, now available 8 am – 8 pm, 7 days per week (note that this has changed from a Maine CDC phone number)

Publisher:

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