

To: Suburban Cook County Schools and Emergency Response Partners including First Responders, Resource Hospitals, EMA Officials, and SCC State-Certified Local Health Departments

**From: Cook County Department of Public Health (CCDPH) &
Cook County Department of Homeland Security & Emergency Management (CCDHSEM)**

The purpose of this document is to provide CCDPH and CCDHSEM partners with the status of ongoing planning and response activities with respect to the 2009 H1N1 influenza pandemic. The information is as current as the date and time listed above.

SITUATIONAL UPDATE

- **Reported Influenza:** Influenza-like illness (ILI) remains widespread. 2009 H1N1 influenza A appears to be the predominant respiratory virus circulating at this time. Please visit the CCDPH website at www.cookcountypublichealth.org to obtain our most recent weekly surveillance report pertaining to the week of October 18-24, 2009. This report shows that for a fifth straight week, influenza-like illness rates continued to rise with activity levels 70% higher than the previous weekly reporting period. This coincides with an increase in laboratory-confirmed cases of 2009 H1N1 and an increase in hospitalizations. To date, suburban Cook County has had a cumulative total of 183 hospitalized cases of confirmed 2009 H1N1 and 6 deaths.
- **2009 H1N1 Vaccine:** CCDPH received an initial shipment of vaccine late last week that included 10,000 doses of inactivated vaccine and 10,000 doses of the nasal mist. At the beginning of the week, CCDPH diverted 25% of this shipment to hospitals who had not yet received vaccine so that critical healthcare workers could be vaccinated. The remainder of the vaccine is being used at our first school vaccination sites. An additional 50,000 doses of vaccine was received on 10/28/09 which will permit us to open our regional health clinics, begin our daycare center vaccination program, and continue the school-located vaccination program. We expect vaccine supplies to come in periodically over the next several months and need to remain flexible since supply shortages will affect the response effort.
- **Public Health Emergency Proclamation.** On October 14, the Governor issued a formal proclamation that a public health emergency exists in Illinois. This has paved the way for proclamations granting temporary modifications to the scopes of practice of licensed professionals working under the direction of the IDPH/IEMA or of local public health authorities/accredited emergency management agencies to carry out H1N1 vaccination efforts.
- **School Located Vaccination Program.** The first school located vaccination clinics began in Palatine schools on October 29-30. On our first day, over 6,000 vaccines were administered.

CURRENT ACTIVITIES:

- **(2009 H1N1) Vaccination Campaign:** CCDPH understands the frustration of physicians, hospitals, and the public about the vaccine shortage. We appreciate everyone's understanding. The CCDPH is working with its hospital and neighboring local health departments to make sure the vaccine goes to the most critical areas first. The CCDPH vaccination plan is flexible and may change depending on vaccine availability, staffing, community needs and disease severity.
- **CCDPH Regional Vaccination Clinics:** Appointments are now being taken for H1N1 vaccinations at CCDPH regional clinics. Please see an informational flyer that is posted on the CCDPH website for distribution to the public. Due to the high call volume, CCDPH asks that residents be patient when making an appointment. We have made over 600 appointments as of 12:00 PM on Oct. 30, 2009.



- **CCDPH School-Located Vaccination Clinics:** Over the next several months, this program will provide the 2009 H1N1 vaccine to students in suburban schools choosing to participate. CCDPH recommends that children not wait for this program if they have an opportunity to be vaccinated sooner, particularly if they have a condition placing them at higher risk.
- **Licensed Daycare Center Initiative:** The CCDPH is offering licensed daycares and their daycare nurse consultants the opportunity to vaccinate children enrolled in their programs whose parents or guardians wish to have them vaccinated.
- **Health Professionals are still needed to serve as CCDPH vaccinators:** CCDPH will provide direction, clinical supervision and training. Please consider:
 - Promoting participation in the Cook County Medical Reserve Corps (CCMRC). In addition to requesting existing MRC programs to dually enroll their volunteers in CCMRC for a coordinated volunteer response, CCDPH is signing up volunteers directly on the CCDPH website. Volunteers may also call 708-492-2820 to obtain a CCMRC Volunteer Packet.
 - Local government entities may assign their employed health professionals (nurses, EMTs) to assist us. Please view the Memorandum of Agreement posted on the CCDPH website.
 - Provider groups interested in helping with the vaccination efforts should call the Flu Hotline at 708-492-2828.
- **Emergency Medical Services (EMS) Personnel:** The State has authorized EMT-Ps and EMT-Is to vaccinate under the direction of their EMS Medical Directors or, subject to the authorization of the EMS Medical Director, under the direction of public health/emergency management authorities. For EMT-Ps and EMT-Is to be able to assist with CCDPH vaccination efforts, the following is required:
 - The local entity which employs the EMT-P or EMT-I should sign the Local Government Memorandum of Agreement.
 - The EMT-Ps and EMT-Is must receive IDPH-approved training provided by their EMS system and be approved to participate by their EMS Medical Director. CCDPH can submit a request once we know that an EMT is interested in assisting.
 - The EMT-Ps and EMT-Is must also complete CCDPH Vaccinator Training found on the Flu Page of the CCDPH website. This is necessary to familiarize the EMT with our orders and protocols. Please call 708-492-2828 for questions.
- **CCDPH-CCDHSEM-EMA Coordination.** The CCDHSEM is taking the lead in coordinating upcoming public health response activities with local emergency management agencies.
- **Updated Materials:** The CCDPH website is updated regularly. Please visit for updated infection control guidance and health materials. Recently posted materials include:
 - *Basic flu information translated in Arabic, Polish, and Spanish.*
 - *How to make an H1N1 Vaccination Appointment Flyer*
- **Information:** Please contact us or refer anyone with questions to the CCDPH website at www.cookcountypublichealth.org, the general e-mail at BeAware@ccdph.net or the 2009 H1N1 Flu hotline at 708-492-2828.

Thank you for your continued support. CCDPH and CCDHSEM sincerely appreciate the outstanding programs and support of our valued partners.

