

DPH Weekly Updates October 22, 2009

We know how hard you are working--and we thank you for it. We did want you to know that now we are hearing from more schools about large clusters of ILI in Massachusetts. Please check our website on a regular basis as we are adding more materials, e.g., materials in different languages: www.mass.gov/flu. This will be a short e-mail with many attachments--so there are two parts.

1. H1N1 Updates:

1. Collaboratives Seeking Assistance in Flu Clinics: Can you include a message encouraging Collaboratives to contact me if they are interested in offering H1N1 vaccine in their schools? Mary

Mary Conant RN, BSN
Deputy Program Manager/Immunization Nurse Manager
Immunization Program
Massachusetts Department of Public Health
Hinton State Laboratory Institute
305 South Street, Room 506D
Jamaica Plain, MA 02130
Office: (617) 983-6862 Fax: (617) 983-6840 Cell: (617) 777-4012

2. PREP Act Information regarding Nursing Students (also sent previously):

I wanted to make sure that you all are aware that the PREP Act declaration for H1N1 vaccine was amended by the Secretary of HHS, effective September 28. The amendment removes the confusion about whether non-licensed individuals are "qualified persons" to administer the vaccine and thus to get the Act's liability protection. They **are** qualified persons, as long as they are authorized to prescribe, administer or dispense the H1N1 vaccine by the state. For our purposes, this means that medical and nursing students are now clearly protected by the PREP Act. Priscilla Fox, Deputy General Counsel, Massachusetts Department of Public Health

3. Decision Tree for 2009 H1N1 Vaccination

CDC H1N1 Flu | Healthcare Providers and Facilities - Decision Tree for 2009 H1N1 Vaccination

http://www.cdc.gov/H1N1flu/vaccination/decisiontree.htm?s_cid=ccu101309_decisiontree_e

4. A special thank you to the School Health Institute (Kathy Hassey and Ann Farrell), Barbara Mackey, Mary Conant and all the Nurses who Assisted in the Immunization Refresher Courses: We deeply appreciate their assistance in setting up the clinics so rapidly -and for all of you who attended (between 600-700 nurses to date)

2. Boston Based Clinical Service for Youth at Risk for Psychosis: Announcing a new Boston-based clinical service for youth at risk for psychosis Please visit our new website! www.cedarclinic.org **CEDAR** Center for Early Detection, Assessment, and Response to Risk www.cedarclinic.org has:

- Information about CEDAR clinic services, including
 - Consultations
 - Multifamily psychoeducational group treatment
 - Free Trainings for anyone working with adolescents and young adults
- Information for recognizing and responding to the possible early warning signs of psychotic illnesses
- News and information about our Boston-based initiative to prevent or mitigate the onset of major mental illness

Contact us: if you are concerned about a young person who is showing puzzling changes in thinking, behavior, or emotional expression - or -

if you would like to discuss a free training for your staff. Kristen Woodberry 617-998-5022 kwoodber@bidmc.harvard.edu. Please forward this to others who may be interested.

*Kristen A. Woodberry, MSW, MA, Commonwealth Research Center
Massachusetts Mental Health Center, Beth Israel Deaconess Medical Center, Landmark Center 2nd floor East, 401 Park Drive, Boston, MA 02215 Tel: 617-998-5022 Fax: 617-998-5007 CEDAR Clinic www.cedarclinic.org*

The "Spot" Young Adult Center, 76 Amory Street, Roxbury, MA 02119, Tel: 617-516-5120 Fax: (617) 442-6917

3. Requests/Information from Schools:

Waltham Public Schools: Do any of you have a protocol for the death of a student by natural causes and/or suicide I would appreciate a copy. They can email, mail or fax it to: Marie DeSisto, School Nurse Leader, Waltham High School, 617 Lexington St, Waltham, MA 02452 desistom@k12.waltham.ma.us

Northborough/Southborough Schools: Seeking school nurse for a grade 3-4 elementary school. BSN/DESE certification. Please contact Laurie Pardee, RN, MSN at lpardee@nsboro.k12.ma.us if interested. Thank you

Andover Public Schools: Rita Casper, School Nurse Leader reports that they just finished their flu clinics through Maxim to Grade 5 thru Grade 12 students. It was a very time-consuming process and there were **many** issues along the way. If you know of anyone who is using Maxim, feel free to have them contact me so that I can let them know what to prepare for. (978) 623-8545

Attachments:

Part 1

1. **Coordinated school health**
2. **teen driver safety week**
3. **H1N1 situation report**
4. **Safe Routes to School forum**
5. **IMPORTANT: Brain Injury Conference**
6. **Transgender suicide initiative**

Part 2:

7. **Regional Prevention Conference**
8. **Children's exposure to violence**
9. **Health plans for self employed**
10. **Situation report--flu**
11. **Asthma/flu poster**
12. **Allergy/flu poster**
13. **Tobacco funding**
14. **Additional Updates**

Thank you again for all you work on behalf of children and communities----we get daily positive feedback at MDPH on the wonderful efforts of the school nurses in Massachusetts--and especially your rising to the challenge of controlling the influenza! We thank you---and we only wish the flu vaccine would arrive more rapidly....

Please note: There will be no weekly e-mail next week as I need to meet with the other State School Nurse Consultants in Denver. Have a good weekend!

Anne H. Sheetz
Director of School Health Services
Massachusetts Department of Public Health
250 Washington Street
Boston, MA 02108
Telephone: (617) 624-6018
FAX: (617) 624-6062
anne.sheetz@state.ma.us