

November 4, 2009 DPH Weekly Email Updates

This e-mail will be in two parts as there has been much information shared with us during the past week and a half.

Thank you again for all you do for the children--we deeply appreciate your work. We know we are living through difficult times, but the ill children need us more than ever---and AAL school nurses will need to share what they do! (And, data too!)

1. H1N1:

A. Update on H1N1 Activity: There has been a continuous increase in influenza-like illness (ILI) in Massachusetts over the last few weeks. For a completed report, see the website.

- MDPH continues to receive reports of ILI clusters in schools and the Hinton State Laboratory is receiving an increased number of specimens for H1N1 testing. Follow-up of individual cases by MDPH epidemiologists and local health departments continues to focus on severely ill and hospitalized cases.
- Between October 4 and October 29, 14 hospitalizations and one death due to laboratory-confirmed 2009 H1N1 influenza were reported in Massachusetts.
- MDPH has allocated 483,700 doses of H1N1 vaccine in all formulations, or between roughly 10% and 15% of the doses we expect to receive overall.
- A number of new resources for providers and the general public are available at www.mass.gov/dph/flu.

B. Attachments: We have attached sample starting orders for the vaccine and the emergency treatment.

C. We anticipate increased supplies of the vaccine to be sent to the local health departments in the next two weeks.

D. Massachusetts Medical Society Online Training: As you may know, the Massachusetts Medical Society has been working with Massachusetts Department of Public Health's Bureau of Infectious Disease Prevention, Response and Services to provide "Massachusetts Responds: A Vaccinator Training" as an online educational tool and CME activity. The goal is to expand the reach of DPH's vaccinator training to those health professionals who may not have been able to attend one of the live sessions. The course is based upon DPH's training sessions presented across the state. The format is a 3-module program including all the slides and resource materials in the areas of: 1) definition of influenza types, 2) the principles of vaccine management, and 3) a description of vaccine preparation and administration techniques. Resource materials include all of the handouts, templates and forms utilized in the live sessions.

The course is now live. The URL is www.massmed.org/cme/dphtraining. Please feel free to download all presentations and materials for use with your staff, local MRC etc. We also encourage you to post the link on your website, so that others may access the training content from work or home. We hope that you find this to be a useful adjunct to your preparedness activities. Please feel free to contact me with any questions.

E. Implementation Issues: The following information is to ensure optimal performance of the BD Integra retractable needle/syringe units:

To Prevent Vaccine from Leaking

When filling syringes, health care providers must firmly twist the needle (approximately 1/2 turn) into the hub of the syringe. When removing the cap to draw vaccine from a multi-dose vial, health care providers should tightly hold the end of the cap and pull straight back, being careful not to twist the needle. If the needle cap has been replaced after drawing up vaccine, be careful not to twist the needle when removing the needle cap prior to vaccinating the patient.

To Activate the Needle Retraction Mechanism

BD Integra retractable needles are safety engineered to retract directly into the barrel of the syringe. If the needle is difficult to retract, withdraw the needle from the patient prior to attempting to retract. Immediately place syringe in sharps container.

Online Education Opportunities: To view a brief video on the Becton Dickinson website to demonstrate the appropriate use of the BD Integra needle, please click the following link: http://www.bd.com/videos/safety/integra_syringe.aspx

CDC is planning to host a webinar so that health care providers and vaccine planners can receive proper instruction on the use of the four (4) different brands of needles and syringes that may be included with the H1N1 influenza vaccine ancillary supplies.

Online feedback

Health care providers and local health departments can provide feedback related to any ancillary supply items by clicking the following link: http://www.surveymonkey.com/s.aspx?sm=Z_2fmqbgfhsYmkVyhooOMOWw_3d_3d

On behalf of the H1N1 Vaccine Implementation Team, thank you,

John Theofilos

Deputy, H1N1 Vaccine Implementation Team

Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC)

1600 Clifton Road, Mail Stop D-29

Atlanta, GA 30333

(O) 404/639-0874
(C) 404/593-6279
jtheofilos@cdc.gov

2. Northeastern University School Health Institute Trainings Registration and information @ www.cps.neu.edu/shi .
- o Immunization Refresher Training November 12th Stoughton (4:30-7:00 pm) (FREE) Please *advise Kathy Hassey if more immunization refreshers are needed....*
 - o Medication Administration and Delegation November 12, 2009 Marlboro
 - o Mandated Screening Training for School Nurses Friday December 4, 2009 Marlboro
 - o Growth and Postural Screening Training for PE Teachers Friday December 4, 2009 Marlboro (FREE)
 - o Tobacco Cessation Training Program Tuesday December 8, 2009 Marlboro

Kathleen A. Hassey BA BSN MEd
Director of the NEU School Health Institute
145 South Bedford St.
Burlington, MA 01803
781-238-8476 (Phone)
781-238-8468 (Fax)
www.cps.neu.edu/shi

3. Requests from Schools

Sandwich Public Schools: School Nurse Leader position opening in Sandwich Jan 4th 2010. Candidates must be certified. Send cover letter, resume with 3 letters of reference & copy of certification to Dr. Mary Ellen Johnson, Sandwich Public Schools, Administration Offices, 365 Quaker Meeting House Rd. Suite A, East Sandwich, MA 02537. Thanks, Celine Hardy, Forestdale School, 151 Rte 130, Forestdale, MA 02644 508-833-8046

Attachments:

Part 1:

1. Standing Order--emergency treatment
2. " Inactivated Flu
3. " LAIV
4. " Seasonal LAIV
5. " Seasonal TIV
6. Additional Information on H1N1
7. Adolescent conference
8. Adolescent conference registration
9. H1N1 Exclusion Order

Part 2:

10. Asthma flyer
11. Employee Wellness Award
12. H1N1 Media Campaign delayed
13. Civic engagement conference
14. MGH Public Conference
15. Inhalant Information
16. Partnership for Heart Healthy Conference
17. Vaccine Distribution
18. Pest Management
19. Additional Updates

Have a good weekend--and remember tell EVERYONE what you do--for the children and for H1N1. Thank you!

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