

For Immediate Release
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H1N1 Weekly Media Update: Nov. 18, 2009

Vaccine Information

Starting this week, the New Mexico Department of Health will expand the H1N1 vaccine priority groups to include adults who have a medical condition that puts them at greater risk for developing serious complications from the flu. This group had always been included in the list of persons to receive H1N1 vaccine, however, because of limited vaccine supplies, this group had not been prioritized up to now.

The Department of Health has ordered 283,430 doses of nasal and injectable H1N1 vaccine. Vaccine is arriving in small amounts and is being distributed to providers and public health offices statewide.

People with the following medical conditions are at higher risk for complications: Chronic pulmonary (including asthma); cardiovascular (except hypertension); renal, hepatic, hematological (including sickle cell disease), neurologic, neuromuscular, or metabolic disorders (including diabetes mellitus); Immunosuppression, including that caused by medications or by HIV; and people younger than 19 years of age who are receiving long-term aspirin therapy.

The Department of Health is encouraging people in the following current H1N1 vaccination priority groups to get vaccinated as soon as possible: pregnant women, household members/caretakers of infants less than 6 months old, children 6 to 59 months of age, children and adults 5 to 64 years of age with certain chronic health conditions that increase their risk of complications from influenza, and healthcare workers and emergency medical service personnel with direct patient care.

The Department of Health is encouraging people in the current priority group to call their primary healthcare providers first to ask if they are providing the novel H1N1 vaccine. People in the priority groups without insurance or a healthcare provider, or whose provider will not offer the H1N1 vaccine, can get the vaccine from a local public health office. Call your local public health office first to check the availability of H1N1 vaccine. Public health offices are listed in the phonebook's blue pages under state government or online at www.nmhealth.org.

Vaccine Ordered by County:

The following is a total amount of H1N1 vaccine that has been ordered for each county as of Nov. 4: Bernalillo (89,910), Catron (270), Chaves (13,060), Cibola (4,000), Colfax (1,960), Curry (6,570), DeBaca (160), Doña Ana (30,020), Eddy, (7,150), Grant (4,180), Guadalupe (470), Harding (20), Hidalgo (360), Lea (8,520), Lincoln (2,470), Los Alamos (2,410), Luna (4,120), McKinley (13,530), Mora (500), Otero (7,650), Quay (1,470), Rio Arriba (7,115), Roosevelt (2,490), San Juan (18,150), San Miguel (4,610), Sandoval (13,530), Santa Fe (18,875), Sierra (1,560), Socorro (3,310), Taos (3,470), Torrance (2,590), Union (530), Valencia (8,410).

Deaths

The Department of Health is reporting seven H1N1-related deaths in the last week in New Mexico. The latest deaths are: a 57-year-old male from Bernalillo County with chronic medical conditions, a 62 year-old male from Bernalillo County with chronic medical conditions, a 58-year-old male from Bernalillo County with chronic medical conditions, a 29-year-old female from Doña Ana County without chronic medical conditions, a 12-year-old male from Doña Ana County with chronic medical conditions, and a 52-year-old male from Eddy County with chronic medical conditions.

There have been 36 deaths related to H1N1 influenza in the state. Information about the other deaths is listed on the Department's H1N1 website at: www.nmhealth.org/H1N1.

Influenza-Like Illness and Disease Investigation

Visits to healthcare providers for influenza-like illness continues to drop, but is still higher than expected for this time of year. This week 5.8 percent of visits to providers were for influenza like illness compared to 6.2 percent last week. The Department tracks influenza-like illness, which is defined as fever and either cough and/or sore throat, at 26 clinics throughout the state. Influenza-like illness is the best indicator of flu activity in the state. Novel H1N1 influenza is still the predominant strain of flu in New Mexico at this time. All positive flu tests are presumed to be novel H1N1 influenza. The severity of illness due to novel H1N1 influenza has not changed nationally or in New Mexico from the spring.

Hospitalizations by County

So far, there have been 909 hospitalizations related to novel H1N1 influenza this year. This week the Department of Health is reporting 71 new hospitalizations. The hospitalizations by county are as follows: Bernalillo County (229), Catron County (1), Chaves County (13), Cibola County (12), Colfax County (20), Curry County (56), Doña Ana County (106), Eddy County (28), Grant County

(12), Guadalupe County (1), Lea County (24), Lincoln County (6), Los Alamos County (4), Luna County (13), McKinley County (67), Mora County (1), Otero County (27), Quay (5), Rio Arriba County (15), Roosevelt County (10), San Juan County (52), San Miguel County(5), Sandoval County (35), Santa Fe County (43), Sierra County (8), Socorro County (14), Taos County (21), Torrance County (2), Union County(1), Valencia County (31) and 47 cases where residence has not yet been determined.

Resources

The Department of Health has combined all H1N1 and seasonal flu information to a central toll free number. The new number is 1-877-304-4161. People can call the number 24-hours a day to get information about vaccine and the disease in both English and Spanish. All previously published numbers are still available.

New Mexico H1N1 Toll Free Hotline:
1-877-304-4161 (H1N1?)

Online Information:
Department of Health H1N1 Website: www.nmhealth.org/H1N1.

Statewide Flu Clinics: www.nmivc.org/cliniclist.php

National H1N1 Information: www.cdc.gov/h1n1flu

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