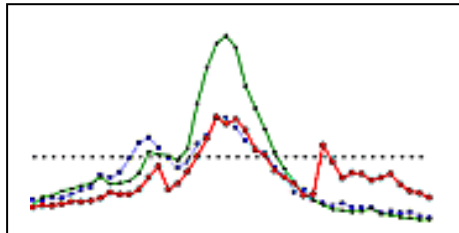




Teleconference Series...

Preparing for the Influenza Pandemic

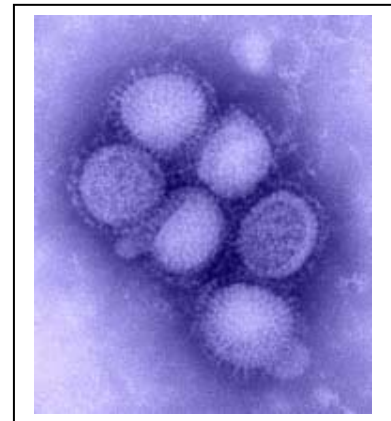


Wednesday September 2, 2009

3:00 PM to 4:45 PM EDT

The widening spread of the Novel H1N1 influenza outbreak, coupled with the onset of the seasonal flu in the weeks ahead is raising concerns among NASDDDS member state agency officials who have responsibility for managing publicly financed services and supports for people with intellectual and developmental disabilities (I/DD). In their efforts to assure the health and welfare of Medicaid recipients, as well as those receiving state funded supports, program administrators are contemplating the need to take steps to contain the spread of the disease that may significantly impact both the structure and functioning of current services.

To comply with clinical and public health infection control and disease management protocols, state developmental disabilities agencies may need to take a number of steps to deal with the spread of the disease by isolating and treating individuals with ID/DD in place, avoiding groups and public facilities, including hospitals and treatment centers. Such actions may include requirements that people receiving support remain at home during the day with their families or their residential settings. Day services, community activities, and contact with staff and volunteers providing ancillary supports may need to be limited or temporarily suspended until the threat of contagion has passed. These actions may require that significant changes be made temporarily in the amount, frequency, scope, duration and type of services being provided.



Although the pattern can be expected to vary both between and within states, significant disruptions in DD service delivery may take place in several parts of the country. Such changes may cause additional expenditures to be incurred across multiple areas including: healthcare delivery, direct support, supervision and monitoring, medication



administration, personal hygiene, transportation, quarantine and isolation, facility maintenance and disease control, overtime staff coverage.

While we hope that any service interruptions are temporary and localized to specific jurisdictions, states must prepare for even the worse case scenarios. *To assist state DD agencies in their plans to address the potential of a worsening influenza epidemic this NASDDDS teleconference will address issues of interest to state DD agency officials, such as:*

- What measures are being taken by the federal Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) to assist state DD agencies, people with disabilities, family members and staff respond to the influenza pandemic?
- What plans are being made to ensure that individuals with DD receiving services and the healthcare personnel providing direct support in congregate and community settings, as well as families and others receive priority access to the H1N1 influenza vaccine when it becomes available?
- What steps are state DD agencies taking to prepare for the possibility of an influenza epidemic that could result in a significant disruption of services, of staffing, management and control?
- What interventions are state DD agencies planning to take to isolate and treat people with I/DD who become ill, maintain staffing, and reduce the possibility of disease transmission?
- How are state agencies, providers and local communities preparing to rapidly coordinate and implement the wide range of measures needed to mitigate the spread of the disease?
- How are states planning to address the potentially significant second- and third-order consequences that may arise when people with IDD are required to be isolated in their own homes with their families, in group homes in the community or in other residential settings. What are the implications for family members, support staff, healthcare professionals and others who furnish services during the day.
- How will service disruptions impact day program providers, professionals and staff furnishing ancillary services who are reimbursed on a fee for service basis?
- What steps are being taken by the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) to assist state DD agencies prepare for and withstand the programmatic and financial impact of the influenza epidemic on Medicaid funded services and supports?

These are but a few of the issues to be discussed during the Association's upcoming teleconference on Pandemic Flu Preparedness.

Don't miss this important teleconference featuring presentations from:

- **Federal Officials from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC)** on the national picture with respect to pandemic preparedness and mitigation and the anticipated course of both the Novel H1N1 and the seasonal influenzas.
- **Federal Officials from the Centers for Medicare and Medicare Services (CMS)** on the questions and concerns the agency is receiving from states and the steps they intend to take to address them.
- **New York State OMRDD Officials** on the state-level preparedness activities and concerns.
- **Pennsylvania Office of Developmental Programs Officials** on the actions being taken to address the needs of individuals in congregate and community settings during the influenza epidemic.

Participation Limited to Member State Agency Staff

PRE-REGISTRATION REQUIRED

The Call-In number and Guest Code will be provided with your registration confirmation.

Email ksnyder@nasddd.org with your request to register

The Series. NASDDDS membership teleconference series brings together member state agency personnel to share knowledge and insights on critical, contemporary issues in federal/state policy and practice. Be on the lookout for announcements concerning future calls in the series.