

Pandemic Influenza Preparedness

This Bulletin Features...

- ➔ **NASDDDS ACTIVITY UPDATES** - Updates of recent contacts with CMS and the CDC to assist state developmental disabilities agencies respond to the current H1N1 influenza pandemic.
- ➔ **LATEST DEVELOPMENTS & INFORMATION FROM THE CDC AND OTHER SOURCES** - Links to key CDC sites providing up to date data on the status of the pandemic, information and guidance.
- ➔ **STATE INITIATIVES** - Information on state DD agency Pandemic Flu advisories and activities.
- ➔ **POLICY TOOLS** - Documents providing additional emergency preparedness materials and policy guidance.
- ➔ **NEXT STEPS: WHAT YOU CAN DO** - We need information from you to keep NASDDDS member state agencies up to date with new developments and informed of best practices.

NASDDDS ACTIVITY UPDATES

Meeting with CMS. NASDDDS staff met via conference call with key CMS officials regarding the Association's recent request for increased financial and programmatic flexibility of Medicaid programs during periods of national emergency (see attached). CMS staff appreciated our efforts to get out ahead of the situation and agreed to take a proactive role in responding to the issues and recommendations offered. We anticipate a response from them very soon and will notify the member state agencies of further developments as they unfold.

Contact with the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC). The CDC is mounting an aggressive response to the H1N1 influenza pandemic providing daily information and guidance to state and federal agencies and the public at large. Last week, Association staff contacted CDC representatives with a request for assistance in helping state DD agencies prepare for a possible worsening of the current influenza outbreak. In response to our request, Association staff held calls with officials from the CDC National Center on Birth Defects and Developmental Disabilities regarding the needs of individuals with ID/DD, their families, and the staff who support them during an influenza outbreak. Of particular concern is the need to ensure that the 2009 Novel H1N1 Influenza Vaccination Program include people with ID/DD and staff among the targeted priority groups (see attached letter to V. Campbell). Additional meetings are planned for the future.

Contact with the Center for Infectious Disease Research and Policy at the University of Minnesota (CIDRAP). CIDRAP's initiative on pandemic flu preparedness, launched in collaboration with the Association of State and Territorial Health Officers (ASTHO) for at risk populations has a resource bank of public policy best practices (see links below). See the main website <http://www.cidrap.umn.edu/>.

LATEST DEVELOPMENTS & INFORMATION FROM THE CDC & OTHER SOURCES

- ➔ **Obama Administration Calls on Nation to Begin Planning and Preparing for Fall Flu Season & the New H1N1 Virus.** New Funding for States and New Nation-Wide Flu Prevention Campaign are announced at [flu.gov](http://www.flu.gov).
<http://www.hhs.gov/news/press/2009pres/07/20090709a.html>
- ➔ **H1N1 Flu Resource Kit.** Regularly updated, the Resource Kit contains helpful information, tools and resources. <http://www.flu.gov/h1n1resourcekit.html>.
- ➔ **CDC Recommendations for State and Local Planning for a 2009 Novel H1N1 Influenza Vaccination Program** July 8, 2009, 4:30 PM ET. This document describes planning scenarios for state and local governments to target high-priority populations for vaccination in order to reduce the health and societal impact of the novel H1N1 influenza virus.
<http://www.cdc.gov/h1n1flu/vaccination/statelocal/planning.htm>.
- ➔ **Guidance on Allocating and Targeting Pandemic Influenza Vaccine.**
<http://www.pandemicflu.gov/vaccine/allocationguidance.pdf>
- ➔ **General Business and Workplace Guidance for the Prevention of Novel Influenza A (H1N1) Flu in Workers.** This guidance is to help employers with employees in OSHA's Lower Risk (Caution) Zone*: those employees who have minimal occupational contact with the general public and other coworkers (for example, office employees).
<http://www.cdc.gov/h1n1flu/guidance/workplace.htm>.
- ➔ **Interim CDC Guidance on Day and Residential Camps in Response to Human Infections with the Novel Influenza A H1N1 Virus** (June 14, 2009 5:30 PM ET). This document provides interim guidance on suggested means to reduce the spread of the novel influenza A (H1N1) virus in day, residential, or overnight camp settings. Recommendations are interim, based on current knowledge of the H1N1 outbreak in the United States, and may be revised as more information becomes available.
<http://www.cdc.gov/h1n1flu/camp.htm>
- ➔ **Interim Guidance for Infection Control for Care of Patients with Confirmed or Suspected Novel Influenza A (H1N1) Virus Infection in a Healthcare Setting.** This document provides interim guidance for healthcare facilities (e.g., hospitals, long-term care and outpatient facilities, and other settings where healthcare is provided) and will be updated as needed http://www.cdc.gov/h1n1flu/guidelines_infection_control.htm.
- ➔ **Immunization of Healthcare Workers.** Because of their contact with patients or infective material from patients, many health-care personnel (HCP)(e.g., physicians, nurses, emergency medical personnel, dental professionals and students, medical and nursing students, laboratory technicians, hospital volunteers, and administrative staff) are at risk for

exposure to and possible transmission of vaccine-preventable diseases. Interim guidance: http://www.cdc.gov/ncidod/dhqp/wrkr_immune.html.

- ➡ **Latest Information and Materials from the CDC.** <http://www.pandemicflu.gov/>.

STATE INITIATIVES

Several state DD agencies, in collaboration with their state health departments, emergency management agencies and others, are taking steps to: (a) provide guidance and information on key policy issues related to preparedness and response; (b) document the spread of the H1N1 virus among children and adults with intellectual and developmental disabilities; and (c) inform staff, families, providers and other stakeholders of steps they can take to reduce the spread of the disease.

- ➡ **The New Jersey Division of Developmental Disabilities, with the Arc of New Jersey** issued an alert to the state's developmental disabilities community updating stakeholders and families on the spread of the pandemic and the need to be aware that certain underlying medical conditions often found in people with ID/DD can make them susceptible to more severe complications from the flu virus than individuals without these conditions (see attached: New Jersey H1N1 Alert).
- ➡ **Oregon's Division of Seniors and Persons with Disabilities** distributed an Administrative Alert providing *Guidance for Long-term Care Facilities in Communities with One or More Reported Probable or Confirmed Cases of Swine-Origin H1N1 Influenza*. The document furnished information on staffing, prevention, support and emergency planning (see attached: Oregon SPD Pan Flu Guidance).
- ➡ **State DD Officials are requested** to send NASDDDS (cmoseley@nasddds.org) copies of any alerts, bulletins or other guidance on pandemic flu response that is being distributed to the state's DD community.

POLICY TOOLS

NASDDDS has received the following policy tools and resources that will be of interest to state DD agency officials. Additional materials will be sent out as they become available.

- ➡ **Home Health Care During an Influenza Pandemic: Issues and Resources** by Ann Knebel and Sally J. Phillips, prepared for the Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality. Although targeted to home health care agencies, this document provides a great deal of useful information, particularly for community providers. Areas addressed include: collaboration with the business community, planning, workforce, patient care and ethical/legal concerns (See attached: Homehealthcare During PanFlu).

From CIDRAP At Risk Populations Best Practices

- ➡ **Emergency Preparedness Workbook** aimed at people with special functional needs who may need additional assistance during a public health emergency. Developed by the State of Ohio, the workbook is not pandemic-specific, but it focuses on enhancing individual preparedness and resiliency in the face of a variety of emergencies. The kit includes: (a)

Emergency Plan for Home, (b) Be Prepared to Go to a Shelter, (c) Important People and Papers. <http://www.cidrapractices.org/practices/resource.do?resource-id=272&state-id=41>

➔ **FEMA Continuity of Operations Plans and Templates for Pandemic Influenza.**

Documents and templates providing information on the development of succession and continuity of operation plans to ensure administrative and management capacity during periods of high staff absenteeism brought about by a flu pandemic or other event. See <http://www.fema.gov/government/coop/index.shtm#1>

- Pandemic Influenza Continuity Annex Template Instructions ([PDF](#) 11MB, [TXT](#) 78KB)
- Key Elements of Departmental Pandemic Influenza Operational Plans ([PDF](#) 7MB, [TXT](#) 54KB)
- Pandemic Influenza Continuity Considerations Checklist ([PDF](#) 117KB, [TXT](#) 9KB)
- Continuity of Operations for Pandemic Influenza Brochure ([PDF](#) 279KB, [TXT](#) 8KB)
- H1N1 Influenza Preparedness Summit Briefing ([PDF](#) 204KB, [TXT](#) 7KB)
- Continuity of Operations (COOP) Plan Template Instructions ([DOC](#) 390KB)
- Continuity of Operations (COOP) Plan Template ([DOC](#) 362KB)

➔ **Emergency Preparedness Tips for Those with Functional Needs Guidebook (IL).**

Developed by a team of emergency management and health professionals in Illinois to provide preparedness tips for people with a variety of special needs. Includes information on building a disaster kit and specific advice for seniors and people with hearing impairments, individuals with ID/DD, mental health and substance abuse issues, mobility impairments, service animals and pets, and visual impairments.

http://www.ready.illinois.gov/pdf/PreparednessTips_FunctionalNeeds.pdf

NEXT STEPS: WHAT YOU CAN DO

NASDDDS staff will continue to monitor the current national health situation and will provide member state agency officials updates during the weeks and months ahead. **We need your assistance** to ensure that NASDDDS member state agencies are kept up to date with new developments and informed of best practices.

Please forward any new information, policy guidance or preparedness materials are being developed in your state to NASDDDS to help us keep everyone informed.

And, be sure to let me know if you have any suggestions on how the Association might improve on our efforts to keep state DD agencies apprised of new developments in this area.

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