

## *Pandemic Influenza Preparedness*

### This Bulletin Features...

- ➔ **NASDDDS ACTIVITY UPDATES** - Updates of Association activities and contacts.
- ➔ **LATEST DEVELOPMENTS & INFORMATION FROM THE CDC AND OTHER SOURCES** - Discussion of Seasonal and H1N1 Influenzas, Links to key CDC sites providing up to date data on the status of the pandemic, information and guidance.
- ➔ **WHAT YOU CAN DO** - We need information from you to keep NASDDDS member state agencies up to date with new developments and informed.

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### NASDDDS ACTIVITY UPDATES

#### Association Teleconference on Pandemic Flu Preparedness.



#### *Save the Date*

The Association is holding a membership teleconference on Pandemic Flu Preparedness for state DD agencies on **Wednesday September 2nd from 3:00 PM to 4:45 PM EDT**. Presenters will include representatives from the Centers for Disease Control and Preparedness (CDC), the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) and state DD agency representatives from New York and Pennsylvania. See attached flyer for details and registration instructions.

**NASDDDS Advisory Committee.** An Association Advisory Committee on Pandemic Flu Preparedness has been formed to provide assistance and technical support to member state agencies and staff on pan flu preparedness.

### LATEST DEVELOPMENTS & INFORMATION FROM THE CDC & OTHER SOURCES

The CDC continues to issue timely electronic announcements regarding: (a) the *Influenza A H1N1* virus and pandemic, and (b) the annual epidemics of *Seasonal Influenza* that are expected to occur beginning in the late fall of each year. Preparedness and control activities for each type of flu are essentially the same. Differences may exist, however, in the vaccination priorities that are issued by the CDC that are based on population risk factors.

- ➔ **CDC Advisors Make Recommendations for Use of Vaccine Against Novel H1N1 (7/29/09).** The Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices (ACIP) made recommendations regarding the population groups that should be prioritized if the H1N1 vaccine is initially available in extremely limited quantities. When vaccine is first available, the committee recommended that programs and providers try to vaccinate:

- pregnant women,
- people who live with or care for children younger than 6 months of age,
- health care and emergency services personnel,
- persons between the ages of 6 months through 24 years of age, and
- people from ages 25 through 64 years who are at higher risk for novel H1N1 because of chronic health disorders or compromised immune systems.

There is some possibility that initially the vaccine will be available in limited quantities. In this setting, the committee recommended that the following groups receive the vaccine before others:

- pregnant women,
- people who live with or care for children younger than 6 months of age,
- health care and emergency services personnel with direct patient contact,
- children 6 months through 4 years of age, and
- children 5 through 18 years of age who have chronic medical conditions.

The committee recommended that once the demand for vaccine for these prioritized groups has been met at the local level, programs and providers should begin vaccinating everyone from ages 25 through 64 years. Current studies indicate the risk for infection among persons age 65 or older is less than the risk for younger age groups. Therefore, as vaccine supply and demand for vaccine among younger age groups is being met, programs and providers should offer vaccination to people over the age of 65.

The committee also stressed that people over the age of 65 receive the seasonal vaccine as soon as it is available. The novel H1N1 vaccine is not intended to replace the seasonal flu vaccine. It is intended to be used alongside seasonal flu vaccine to protect people. Seasonal flu and novel H1N1 vaccines may be administered on the same day. See <http://www.cdc.gov/media/pressrel/2009/r090729b.htm>.

- ➡ **Questions & Answers Regarding the Novel H1N1 Influenza Vaccine – (7/20/09)**  
[http://www.cdc.gov/h1n1flu/vaccination/public/vaccination\\_qa\\_pub.htm](http://www.cdc.gov/h1n1flu/vaccination/public/vaccination_qa_pub.htm).
- ➡ **Novel H1N1 Flu Situation Update (Posted 7/31/09 for Week Ending 7/25/09).**  
Includes map, weekly influenza activity estimates reported by state and territorial epidemiologists indicating geographic spread of both seasonal and novel influenza A [H1N1] viruses. <http://www.cdc.gov/h1n1flu/update.htm>.
- ➡ **FDA Approves Vaccine for 2009-2010 Seasonal Influenza -**  
<http://www.fda.gov/NewsEvents/Newsroom/PressAnnouncements/ucm172772.htm>.

## **WHAT YOU CAN DO**

Keep member state agencies informed – Please send copies of policies, procedures, and preparedness materials to help us keep the membership informed of emerging issues, promising practices, and new developments.

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