

Pandemic Influenza Preparedness

This Bulletin Features...

- **NASDDDS ACTIVITY UPDATES** - Updates on Association activities and contacts.
- **LATEST DEVELOPMENTS & INFORMATION FROM THE CDC AND OTHER SOURCES** - Guidance for businesses and employers; links to key CDC sites providing up to date information on the status of the pandemic; policy guidance; and preparedness activities.
- **STATE DD AGENCY PANDEMIC PREPAREDNESS RESOURCES** - Information from states on pan flu preparedness activities.
- **REQUEST FOR INFORMATION** - We need information from you to keep NASDDDS member state agencies up to date with new developments technical guidance and preparedness materials.

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.

Priority Access to H1N1 Vaccine. As you know from previous *NASDDDS Pan Flu Bulletins*, the CDC has issued a statement identifying the groups to receive priority access to the H1N1 influenza vaccine when it becomes available. While the guidance appears to make it clear that health care personnel who work in long term healthcare care facilities would be among the priority groups to be vaccinated, the language is not explicit with respect to staff who furnish direct support and assistance to individuals with intellectual and developmental disabilities (IDD) in home and community based settings. The Association is sending a letter to Dr. Thomas Frieden, Director of the CDC requesting that individuals with IDD and the staff who support them be specifically included among the groups identified for priority access to the H1N1 influenza vaccine when it becomes available. A copy of the letter will be distributed to the membership in the next Bulletin.

NASDDDS Pan Flu Advisory Committee. The Association's Advisory Committee on Pandemic Flu Preparedness held its first meeting and is exploring ways to support state DD agencies and staff in their efforts to prepare for and respond to both the Novel H1N1 and the seasonal influenza viruses.

LATEST DEVELOPMENTS & INFORMATION FROM THE CDC & OTHER SOURCES

CDC Guidance for Responses to Influenza for Institutions of Higher Education during the 2009-2010 Academic Year

Thu, 20 Aug 2009. This document provides guidance to help decrease the spread of flu among students, faculty, and staff of institutions of higher education (IHE) and post-secondary educational institutions during the 2009-2010 academic year and may be of assistance to state DD agency staff who are dealing with children and adults in similar congregate residential and day program settings. Information on implementing this guidance is provided in a technical report issued by CDC <http://www.flu.gov/plan/school/higheredtechreport.html>. A Toolkit has been prepared with additional information. <http://www.flu.gov/plan/school/higheredtoolkit.html>.

Guidance for Businesses and Employers to Plan and Respond to the 2009 – 2010 Influenza Season August 19, 2009.

New guidance for non-healthcare employers recommending steps that should be taken now to decrease the spread of seasonal flu and 2009 H1N1 flu in the workplace. The guidance includes additional strategies to use if flu conditions become more severe and new recommendations regarding employee absences. The guidance in this document will be updated as additional information becomes available. Please check <http://www.Flu.gov> periodically for updated guidance

Federal Guidelines Encourage Employers to Plan Now for Upcoming Influenza Season August 19, 2009.

Preparing for the Flu: A Communication Toolkit for Businesses and Employers

"Preparing for the Flu: A Communication Toolkit for Businesses and Employers" provides information and communication resources to help businesses and employers implement recommendations from CDC's *Guidance for Businesses and Employers to Plan and Respond to the 2009-2010 Influenza Season*.

For the most up to date information on the H1N1 and Seasonal influenzas from the CDC visit <http://www.Flu.gov>.

Novel H1N1 Flu: U.S. Situation Update Interactive Map providing weekly influenza activity estimates reported by state and territorial epidemiologists for Seasonal and H1N1 influenzas.

STATE DD AGENCY PANDEMIC PREPAREDNESS RESOURCES

- **New York State Office of Mental Retardation and Developmental Disabilities (OMRDD).** See attached documents and advisories for community providers regarding identification and contact tracing, the management of swine-origin Influenza A (H1-N1) in OMRDD facilities and influenza vaccination regulations. FMI - Kathleen Keating
Kathleen.Keating@omr.state.ny.us.

- ➔ **Oregon Seniors and Persons with Disabilities (SPD)** See attached pandemic flu fact sheet and influenza alert bulletin. FMI - Tina Kitchen MD Tina.C.Kitchin@state.or.us.
- ➔ **Community Strategy for Pandemic Influenza Mitigation**
<http://www.flu.gov/plan/community/commitigation.html#II> Although written for the CDC in 2007, the document presents effective strategies for pandemic preparedness and response.
- ➔ **[Pandemic Influenza Preparedness, Response, and Recovery Guide for Critical Infrastructure and Key Resources](#)** Developed by the Department of Homeland Security, the Pandemic Influenza Preparedness, Response, and Recovery Guide is a practical tool for business owner-operators and their contingency planners for enhancing pandemic planning. The compendium of primary government and pandemic influenza-specific background materials, references, and contacts provides planners with numerous common pandemic influenza planning variables keyed to escalating disaster phases.
- ➔ **[HHS Pandemic Plan](#)** The document serves as a blueprint for all HHS pandemic influenza preparedness planning and response activities.
- ➔ **Interactive Map** showing state and local planning activities
<http://flu.gov/whereyoulive/index.html>. Provides valuable links to state agency resources and contacts.

REQUEST FOR INFORMATION

We need information from you to keep NASDDDS member state agencies up to date with new developments technical guidance and preparedness materials. Please send us any policy announcements, informational materials, alerts or guidelines regarding pandemic flu preparedness for persons with IDD in your state.

Charles R. Moseley, EdD
Associate Executive Director
National Association of State Directors of Developmental Disabilities Services
113 Oronoco Street, Alexandria, VA 22314
Tel: (703) 683-4202; (703) 850-1635 (cell)
Fax: (703) 684-1395
Email: cmoseley@nasddds.org
Website: <http://www.nasddds.org>