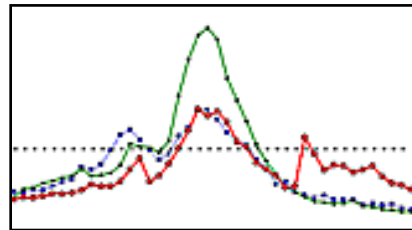


## *Pandemic Influenza Preparedness*

### *This Bulletin Features...*

- ***NASDDDS Activity Updates*** - Updates on Association activities and contacts.
- ***Latest Developments and Information*** - 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*

**Including People with IDD, Staff and Family Members in H1N1 Vaccine Priority Groups.** Association staff continue to work with the CDC to publish guidance and clarification regarding the need to include individuals with intellectual and developmental disabilities, direct support staff and family members among the groups identified to receive priority access to the H1N1 influenza vaccine when it becomes available in the next few weeks. In response, the CDC is developing guidance in the form of FAQs that will help to make it clear that people with cognitive impairments and the staff who provide them with support are to be included among the H1N1 priority vaccination groups. Hopefully, the additional guidance will be available in the upcoming weeks.

**Assisting State Agencies.** Association staff have assisted several member state agencies in their efforts to communicate with state health department officials regarding the need to include people with IDD, their families and staff among the groups to receive priority access to the H1N1 vaccination. A letter summarizing the Association's conversations with CDC officials regarding the intent of the guidelines to include people with IDD, staff and families has been helpful to state officials as they work with their state health departments and provider agencies to ensure coverage for state DD agency consumer groups. A copy of the letter will be sent out to all state DD agency directors next week. For more information contact Chas Moseley.

NASDDDS Pan Flu Committee. The NASDDDS Pan Flu Committee has continued to meet to assist Association staff identify and distribute materials and information to member state agencies and provide input to CDC staff regarding the H1N1 vaccination priority groups.

CDC Advisory Council to the H1N1 Disability Team. Association staff participated on a CDC advisory council providing information on pan flu preparedness issues and activities in states.

## *Latest Developments and Information*

- ✔ CDC 2009 H1N1 Flu: Situation Update on Key Flu Indicators September 25, 2009 <http://www.cdc.gov/h1n1flu/update.htm>. Each week CDC analyzes information about influenza disease activity in the United States and publishes findings of key flu indicators in a report called [FluView](#).
- ✔ CDC Briefing on the Current H1N1 Flu Situation and H1N1 Vaccine Distribution. Watch the video archive\* of the September 25<sup>th</sup> <http://www.flu.gov/live/>. For additional webcasts with information for small businesses, parents and childcare providers, pregnant women, businesses and others go to <http://www.flu.gov/news/knowwhattodo.html>.
- ✔ CDC [Updated Interim Recommendations for the Use of Antiviral Medications in the Treatment and Prevention of Influenza for the 2009-2010 Season](#) 9/24/09. Updated recommendations for clinicians in prescribing antiviral medications for treatment and prevention of influenza during the 2009-2010 season.
- ✔ State Health Officials Letter from CMS. 9/24/09. <http://www.cms.hhs.gov/smdl/downloads/SHO092409.pdf>. Guidance from CMS regarding the 2009 H1N1 public health emergency declaration. The Secretarial declaration has no direct impact on the Medicaid program or the Children's Health Insurance Program (CHIP). This letter provides guidance to States regarding:
  - Vaccination Funding and Vaccine Administration
  - Presumptive Eligibility
  - Beneficiaries with Suspected or Confirmed 2009 H1N1 Influenza
  - Provisions for Beneficiaries Receiving Services Through Managed Care Entities
  - People Receiving Home and Community-Based Waiver Services and State Plan Services
  - Health Care Workforce Planning
  - Administrative Funding for Activities Related to Education and Outreach
  - Emergency Medical Services Under Section 1903(v) of the Social Security Act

- ✔ CDC Mobile Web site <http://www.cdc.gov/mobile/> provides up to date information via mobile phone. Visit [m.cdc.gov](http://m.cdc.gov) on your mobile phone or PDA for information on seasonal flu, H1N1 flu, public health emergencies, and more.
- ✔ H1N1 Flu (Swine Flu): Preparedness Tools for Professionals <http://www.cdc.gov/h1n1flu/tools/>. Resources to help hospital administrators and state and local health officials respond to the H1N1 flu pandemic.
- ✔ H1N1 Flu: A Guide for Community and Faith-based Organizations: <http://www.flu.gov/professional/community/cfboguidance.pdf>. Produced by the Center for Faith-based and Neighborhood Partnerships at the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services. Provides information about how community or faith-based organizations can:
- ✔ H1N1 Clinicians Questions and Answers. Who is recommended to receive the 2009 H1N1 flu vaccine? 9/21/09. When vaccine is first available, the CDC Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices (ACIP) has recommended the 2009 H1N1 vaccine for the following 5 target groups (approximately 159 million persons nationally). [http://www.cdc.gov/h1n1flu/vaccination/clinicians\\_qa.htm](http://www.cdc.gov/h1n1flu/vaccination/clinicians_qa.htm).
- ✔ Updated Information for Individuals, Families and Caregivers <http://pandemicflu.gov/individualfamily/>.
- ✔ H1N1 Flu (Swine Flu): Resources for Child Care Programs, Schools, Colleges, and Universities <http://www.cdc.gov/h1n1flu/schools/> . Updated September 4, 2009. The new guidance recommends actions to take during the current 2009-2010 flu season; suggests additional strategies to consider if CDC determines that flu is becoming more severe; and provides a checklist for decision-making at the local level. Based on the severity of 2009 H1N1 flu-related illness thus far, this guidance recommends that students, faculty, and staff with flu-like illness remain home until 24 hours after resolution of fever without the use of fever-reducing medications. In the absence of specific guidance from the CDC regarding people with IDD and their staff, this information should be applied.

## *Pandemic Preparedness Resources*

### Louisiana Office for Citizens with Developmental Disabilities

Developed following an H1N1 outbreak at one of the state's large facilities, the attached guidelines and planning documents comport with CDC recommendations (see attached above).

- Pandemic Planning and Response Guide Introduction
- Pandemic Planning Guide
- References

## Oregon Seniors and Persons with Disabilities.

- Table-top exercise scenario for pan flu preparedness planning (see attached).

## New York Office of Mental Retardation and Developmental Disabilities (see attached above)

- H1N1 Vaccination Guidelines
- Influenza management in OMRDD Facilities
- Information on the H1N1 Vaccine
- Pediatric Recommendations

## FEMA-Emergency Management Institute independent study course on pandemic flu continuity of operations planning. <http://training.fema.gov/emiweb/is/is520.asp>

## Links to Pandemic Preparedness Materials from the University of Minnesota [Center for Infectious Disease Research & Policy](#)

[Promising Practices](#) in emergency planning and disaster preparedness for special populations by state.

- The [Pandemic Influenza Planning Guide for CBOs](#) contains information and templates to guide preparedness activities for community organizations that provide services to vulnerable populations.
- The [Closed Dispensing Site Guide](#) provides a complete roadmap and tools for community organizations to develop emergency dispensing programs with their local health departments.
- [Minnesota Pandemic Recommended Actions for Healthcare Facilities](#) provides comprehensive, color-coded guidelines for altering clinical standards of care during different stages of a pandemic.
- ["No Ordinary Flu" Comic Book](#) integrates personal preparedness information with the message that we are all descendents of 1918 pandemic survivors.
- ["When Words are Not Enough" Communications Training Program](#) teaches first responders how to communicate with people who have disabilities and special needs.
- [Agency Emergency Plan - COOP Planning for CBOs](#) provides community organizations with preparedness activities that will provide immediate value and be sustainable for cash-strapped agencies.
- [Emergency Preparedness and Special Populations](#) provides tips to enhance local emergency management plans by including provisions for vulnerable populations.

- [Guide for Including People with Disabilities in Disaster Preparedness](#) provides tools for outreach, identification, communication, and sheltering for individuals with disabilities. Developed by the Connecticut Developmental Disabilities Network

### *Request for Information.*

Keep us informed so that we can keep you informed. Please send any information on new developments, technical guidance and preparedness materials.