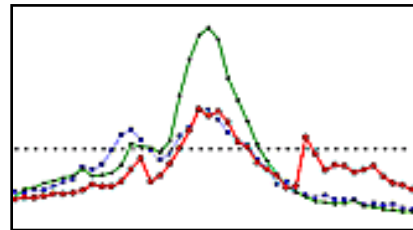


Pandemic Influenza Preparedness

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

DIRECTORS ALERT. Last week, in a conference call with CDC officials, Association staff discussed several issues of concern to NASDDDS member state agencies. High on the list was the need to ensure people with IDD receiving support and staff are included among the groups to receive priority access to the H1N1 influenza vaccine when it becomes available in October. Noting that the H1N1 influenza vaccine will be issued to state health officials for distribution, CDC officials repeatedly stressed the need for state DD agency directors and key staff to meet with their state health departments and local health officials as soon as possible to make sure that state health Departments understand (a) the vulnerability of people with IDD, staff and families to both the Seasonal and H1N1 influenzas and (b) the mechanisms by which state and local health authorities can reach people with disabilities living in home and community settings.

A Directors Alert email was distributed to member state agency directors on Monday August 31st. In response to requests for assistance from NASDDDS member state agencies, Association staff contacted the CDC for guidance in conveying the message to state and local health department officials that the H1N1 vaccination guidelines are intended to include persons with IDD receiving both facility-based and community supports and their staff.

Unfortunately, as of this date, the current H1N1 vaccine recommendations do not specifically address the need to include to high risk individuals with IDD and the staff

who provide long term care via home and community based programs among the groups to receive priority access to the influenza A H1N1 vaccine. NASDDDS staff are continuing to work with the CDC to address this issue.

NASDDDS Pan Flu Committee. The Association's Pan Flu Committee met via teleconference with CDC Officials to discuss the current status and expected progress of the H1N1 pandemic and Seasonal Influenzas, preparedness in state DD agencies, the need to ensure people with IDD and their staff are included in the CDC's vaccination priorities, and strategies for assisting state DD agencies prepare for and respond to the growing public health threat. Among the Committee's recommendations were that the Association introduce a page on its website with updates and resources on Pan Flu Preparedness (see below) and launch a list serve that would allow state agency staff involved in Influenza preparedness and response to share concerns and solutions.

NASDDDS Teleconference. NASDDDS held a membership teleconference on the current status of the influenza pandemic featuring presentations from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) and two state DD agencies, the New York State Office of Mental Retardation and Developmental Disabilities and the Office of Developmental Programs Pennsylvania Department of Public Welfare. Well over 100 state officials and staff from thirty-eight participated in the call. A recording of the call, as well as the presentation from Dr. Mark Swanson at the CDC is available at www.nasddds.org/Teleconferences/index.shtml.

Latest Developments and Information

- ✔ **Technical Report for State and Local Public Health Officials and Child Care and Early Childhood Providers on CDC Guidance on Helping Child Care and Early Childhood Programs Respond to Influenza during the 2009-2010 Influenza Season.** New guidance to help decrease the spread of influenza (flu) among children in early childhood programs and early childhood providers during the 2009-2010 influenza season. The new guidance recommends actions to take now, during the 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. The guidance does not specifically address individuals with IDD or staff but does include recommendations that may be relevant and helpful to state DD agency planners.

<http://www.flu.gov/professional/school/childtechreport.html>

- ✔ **The U.S Food and Drug Administration (FDA)** has just announced the availability of the Seasonal Influenza Vaccine. Information on the vaccine is available at

<http://www.fda.gov/ForConsumers/ConsumerUpdates/ucm100139.htm>

✔ **CDC 2009 H1N1 Vaccination Campaign Planning Checklist**. CDC planning document to assist state and local officials administer the H1N1 vaccine to priority groups following its initial release. Includes discussion of priority groups, vulnerable populations, communications and other tasks to be performed. http://www.cdc.gov/H1N1flu/vaccination/statelocal/planning_checklist.htm

✔ **What is New from the CDC?** <http://www.cdc.gov/h1n1flu/whatsnew.htm>

✔ **U.S. Situation Update:** Comprehensive news and updates: <http://www.flu.gov/>
Be sure to note that there may be different postings for the Seasonal Flu and the Novel H1N1 Flu.

- For weekly analyses of influenza activity in the United States visit FluView <http://www.cdc.gov/flu/weekly/>.
- H1N1 Influenza Update see: <http://www.cdc.gov/h1n1flu/update.htm>.

✔ **International Update.** Pandemic H1N1 influenza virus continues to be the predominant circulating strain of influenza in both the northern and southern hemispheres. (see http://www.who.int/csr/disease/swineflu/notes/h1n1_second_wave_20090828/en/index.html).

- In the southern hemisphere, influenza levels appear to have passed peak in Chile, Argentina, New Zealand, and Australia, remain high in South Africa and Bolivia and are increasing in Central America and tropical regions of Asia.
- In the northern hemisphere, influenza and respiratory disease activity remains low overall in North America, Europe, and Central Asia. In Japan, the level of influenza activity has passed the seasonal epidemic threshold, signaling a very early beginning to the annual influenza season. WHO advises northern hemisphere countries to prepare for a second wave of pandemic spread.

State DD Agency Pandemic Preparedness Resources - Information from states on pan flu preparedness activities.

✚ **New NASDDDS Webpage.** A new page was developed and posted on the NASDDDS Website providing latest developments, resources and websites for NASDDDS member state agencies. Previous Pan Flu Bulletins and additional materials is also included

[Flu Prep](#)

[Resources and Materials on State DD Agency Influenza Preparedness](#)

