



STATE OF MICHIGAN

DEPARTMENT OF COMMUNITY HEALTH
LANSING

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GOVERNOR

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Dear Health Care Providers of children:

Every flu season has the potential to cause severe illness, doctor's visits, hospitalizations and deaths. This flu season may be particularly severe with both seasonal and novel H1N1 influenza infections. Children, especially those with medical conditions, are particularly vulnerable.

Vaccination is the most effective method for preventing influenza infections and its complications. Seasonal influenza vaccination should begin now. The seasonal flu vaccine will not provide protection against novel H1N1 influenza. Influenza A H1N1 2009 monovalent vaccine will be available soon. This vaccine will not replace the seasonal flu vaccine – it is intended to be used along-side seasonal flu vaccine.

The Advisory Committee on Immunizations Practices recommends vaccination with seasonal and H1N1 2009 influenza vaccines for children including:

- Children 6 months-18 years of age who are healthy and those with conditions that increase the risk of complications from influenza including:
 - Immunosuppressive conditions including HIV, medications that induce immunosuppression (e.g. autoimmune diseases that require immunosuppression)
 - Chronic lung disease including asthma
 - Chronic or congenital heart disease
 - Cognitive, neurological or neurodevelopmental disorders
 - Hematological disease including sickle cell disease, leukemia or lymphoma
 - Metabolic diseases including diabetes (both type 1 and type 2)
 - Renal disorders including transplant patients and those with congenital defects
 - Hepatic disorders including transplant patients and those with congenital defects
- Pregnant adolescents
- Children & adolescents on long term aspirin therapy
- Children residing in long term care facilities

Other persons who should get both vaccines to protect these children include:

- Parents and other care-givers of children less than 6 months of age
- Parents and other care-givers of children with medical conditions
- Health care personnel working in these clinics

Parents of healthy children 6 months to 4 years of age are urged to get seasonal flu vaccine. As H1N1 vaccine supply increase these persons should receive H1N1 vaccine too.

MDCH strongly urges clinics that see these patients either carry both the seasonal flu and H1N1 2009 vaccines or arrange for their patients to receive them elsewhere. Up-to-date information for both seasonal and H1N1 2009 influenza including detailed information on vaccination, antiviral treatment recommendations, and Michigan's H1N1 provider program can be found at www.michigan.gov/flu.

Thank you for all you do to protect and care for Michigan's children.

Sincerely,

Gregory S. Holzman, MD, MPH
Chief Medical Executive