



STATE OF MICHIGAN

DEPARTMENT OF COMMUNITY HEALTH
LANSING

JENNIFER M. GRANHOLM
GOVERNOR

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DIRECTOR

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Dear Health Care Providers of children with special needs:

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 with chronic medical conditions and other high risk conditions are particularly vulnerable.

Vaccination is the most effective method for preventing influenza infections and its complications. Vaccination efforts for seasonal influenza 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 and the American Academy of Pediatrics recommend vaccination with seasonal and H1N1 2009 influenza vaccines for children with high-risk conditions. These children would include those with any of the following:

- 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
- Children & adolescents on long term aspirin therapy
- Residents of long term care facilities
- Pregnant adolescents

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

- Parents and other care-givers of these children
- Health care personnel working in these clinics

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