

Influenza activity now widespread in Michigan

As of October 21, flu activity in Michigan has been upgraded to *widespread*. Recent and abrupt increases in influenza activity in all regions of the state prompted the change. Current activity is nearing levels normally seen at the peak of previous influenza seasons. Medical providers are reminded to please promptly report any congregate setting outbreaks, influenza hospitalizations, unusually severe influenza cases, or potential influenza deaths to their local health department or the MDCH Division of Communicable Diseases at 517-335-8165. Clinician and local health department guidance is available at www.michigan.gov/flu. The influenza vaccine supply continues to be challenging for seasonal and 2009 H1N1; healthcare providers are urged to vaccinate as soon as vaccine becomes available and throughout the flu season.

Guidance on the 2009 H1N1 vaccination program

While production delays have slowed the shipments of H1N1 vaccine, they are arriving daily in Michigan. The following groups are recommended to receive the vaccine before others: 1) pregnant women; 2) people who live with or care for children younger than 6 months of age; 3) healthcare and emergency medical services personnel; 4) persons between the ages of 6 months and 24 years old; and 5) people ages 25 through 64 years of age who have chronic medical conditions.

If initial supplies are not sufficient, ACIP recommends that the following subset of the initial target groups receive priority (order of target groups does not indicate priority): 1) pregnant women; 2) persons who live with or provide care for infants aged <6 months; 3) healthcare and emergency medical services personnel who have direct contact with patients or infectious material; 4) children aged 6 months-4 years; and 5) children and adolescents aged 5-18 years who have medical conditions that put them at higher risk for influenza-related complications.

ACIP recommends that once the demand for vaccine for these target groups has been met, providers should begin vaccinating everyone from ages 25 through 64 years. Current studies indicate the risk for infection among persons age 65 or older is less than the risk for younger age groups. Therefore, as vaccine supply and demand for the vaccine among younger age groups is being met, providers should offer vaccination to people over the age of 65.

MDCH has created a 2009 H1N1 Influenza Provider Toolkit; this online kit is posted with the information for clinicians at the www.michigan.gov/flu website. The toolkit is intended to serve as a one-stop shop for all matters related to Michigan's 2009 H1N1 influenza vaccine provider program.

Healthcare providers are strongly encouraged to use the MDCH and CDC as their primary sources for the latest influenza information: 1) www.michigan.gov/flu; 2) www.cdc.gov/flu; and 3) www.flu.gov. For information on how to become an H1N1 vaccine provider, contact your local health department.

Seasonal influenza vaccine supply update

Although seasonal influenza vaccine may be in temporary short supply in some settings right now, production is expected to catch up to demand soon. The current projections of the number of doses of seasonal influenza vaccine that will be available is very close (97%) to the planned number. As of October 16, 82 million doses had been distributed in the private and public sectors.

Many people are receiving their seasonal flu vaccine earlier this year. According to data collected from electronic medical claims, the percent change to date this season over last season in seasonal flu vaccine administration has increased 305%

There are many millions of doses that are yet to be distributed. Most people will be able to obtain vaccine from their usual provider. However, some will have to obtain the vaccine from an alternative provider. People can find seasonal vaccine by checking the American Lung Association web site that identifies clinics that have influenza vaccine available: <http://www.flucliniclocator.org>.

We are still early in flu season; there is still time for people to get vaccinated to protect them from becoming ill. MDCH has posted information for consumers and healthcare providers on [where to find flu vaccine](#).

H1N1 flu vaccine safety resources for clinicians

The following [H1N1 flu vaccine safety topics are covered on the MDCH H1N1 website](#): 1) Why the 2009 H1N1 influenza vaccine is safe; 2) Common side effects of the H1N1 influenza vaccine; 3) Why it is important to receive the 2009 H1N1 influenza vaccine; 4) Vaccine Safety Monitoring; and much, much more. Numerous links are included for vaccine safety informational resources. Check it out at www.michigan.gov/flu > Novel H1N1 Influenza > Clinicians.

Flu VIS available in many translations (H1N1 & seasonal)

Many translations of the seasonal and H1N1 Vaccine Information Statements (VIS) - for the live and inactivated vaccines - are now available. In Michigan, it is important that vaccine recipients, their parents, or their legal representatives be given the Michigan versions of VIS because they include information about the Michigan Care Improvement Registry (MCIR). By state law in Michigan, parents must be informed about MCIR. VIS from other sources (e.g., from the CDC or IAC websites) do not contain information about MCIR.

When CDC releases new or updated VIS, the MDCH Division of Immunization strives to post the Michigan versions of the VIS on its website as soon as possible (usually within 1-2 days). The Michigan versions of the updated Vaccine Information Statements are posted on the MDCH website at: www.michigan.gov/immunize > Vaccine Information Statements (VIS).

Michigan's Immunization Timely Tips (MITT)

MITT is posted at www.michigan.gov/immunize, under the Provider Information section.