

# Public Health Update

August 2009

## Logistics for Novel Influenza A (H1N1) Vaccination

By Kathy Bird, DO, MPH and Taylor Jones, MPH

As we move closer to having a vaccine available for Novel A (H1N1) Influenza, Tri-County Health Department (TCHD) would like to provide updated information on logistical information for the registration, distribution, and delivery of the vaccine as guidance becomes available from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC).

### Production

The vaccine is currently being tested in clinical trials. The CDC estimates that the first shipment may be sent to providers between late September and mid-October. The federal government has paid for production of the vaccine and will provide the vaccine free of cost, and it is the only supplier of the vaccine. Novel A H1N1 Vaccine **cannot** be purchased through a pharmaceutical company or on the private market; it will be provided by the government to hospitals and interested healthcare providers for free, and individuals may not be charged for the vaccine. However, an administration or injection fee can be charged to patients. Insurance companies may reimburse for this charge at their discretion. Although the vaccine has been produced for the general public, Providers offering H1N1 vaccine may provide the vaccine to their staff and/or patients, and are not required to provide it to the general public, but may do so if they wish.

### Registration

Thus far, forms have only been for **pre**-registration. CDC is in the process of creating a provider agreement, which will be sent out to all pre-registered providers as soon as it is available. These provider agreements will need to be signed and returned to the health department, in order for a provider to receive vaccine. Tri-County Health Department is no longer collecting pre-registration forms. If you did not meet the August 21, 2009 deadline, please register through the Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment (CDPHE) by September 9, 2009. If you have already completed the form from Tri-County Health Department, it is **not** necessary to complete the form from CDPHE. If you have not returned either form, and are interested in providing H1N1 vaccine this year, please fill out the attached form and send it to CDPHE. You can also contact Jennifer Trainer at [jennifer.trainer@state.co.us](mailto:jennifer.trainer@state.co.us) or call her at 303-691-7811 for questions. Completing this form will ensure that we have your contact information and will keep you informed of vaccine distribution.

### Priority Groups for H1N1 Vaccination

Please note: Those providers who receive vaccine will be asked to deliver them to the priority populations designated by the Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices (ACIP). These groups include:

1. pregnant women,
2. people who live with or care for children younger than 6 months of age,
3. health care and emergency services personnel,
4. individuals 6 months to 24 years of age, and
5. people ages 25 to 64 years who are at increased risk from novel H1N1 because of chronic health conditions or compromised immune systems.

So if you choose to sign up to receive this vaccine, please think about ways to identify and target those patients that fall into these priority categories.

### **Distribution**

Once the vaccine is available, offices that are registered to receive vaccine and have signed provider agreements will have a shipment sent directly to their office or clinic. Orders will contain a minimum of 100 doses and further requests for vaccine should be in 100 dose increments. The majority of vaccine will be in multi-dose vials, the remainder in single-dose syringes or nasal sprayers. The federal government will also provide needles, syringes, sharps containers, and alcohol swabs.

### **Administration**

The vaccine will be a two-dose series that will be given at least 21-28 days apart. The two vaccinations need not be of the same product/manufacturer. Seasonal flu and Novel H1N1 flu vaccine can be given concurrently. The vaccine will not have an adjuvant and some thimerosal-free vaccine will be available. Priority groups have been designated in case a limited supply of vaccine will be available at the outset of shipping.

### **Management of ill patients**

TCHD is recommending providers set up a telephone triage system to screen patients with **mild** influenza like illness, limiting the number of office visits from patients. Patients with mild influenza-like illness should be discouraged from making appointments and should be provided with information on home treatment, self-care and should utilize social distancing.

For patients coming to your office, make plans to screen patients for signs and symptoms of febrile respiratory illness at entry to the facility. If feasible, use separate waiting and exam rooms for possible novel H1N1 influenza patients; plan to offer surgical masks to symptomatic patients who are able to wear them (adult and pediatric sizes should be available), provide facial tissues, receptacles for their disposal, and provide hand hygiene products in waiting areas and examination rooms.

Please advise your patients with influenza-like illness to stay home and keep away from others as much as possible, including avoiding travel and not going to work for at least 24 hours after their fever is gone except to get medical care or for other necessities. **CDC recommends that individuals with influenza-like illness remain at home until at least 24 hours after they are free of fever (100° F [37.8° C] or greater), without the use of fever-reducing medications.** Advise ill patients who must leave the house to seek medical care, to cover their coughs and sneezes with a tissue and possibly to wear a facemask, if available and tolerable. In general, they should avoid contact with other people as much as possible to keep from spreading their illness.

School-aged patients with influenza-like illness should stay away from classes and limit interactions with other people (called “self-isolation”), except to seek medical care, for at least **24 hours** after they no longer have a fever, without the use of fever-reducing medicines. They should stay away from others during this time period even if they are taking antiviral drugs for treatment of influenza. Tri-County Health Department recommends that students who appear to have an influenza-like illness at arrival to school or become ill during the day be promptly separated from other students and staff and sent home. **TCHD is discouraging schools from requiring a doctor’s note to confirm illness or recovery.** Schools need to understand that doctor’s offices may be very busy and may not be able to provide such documentation in a timely way.

### **Management of ill healthcare personnel**

Healthcare personnel should not report to work if they have a febrile respiratory illness. In communities where novel H1N1 transmission is occurring, **healthcare personnel who develop a febrile respiratory illness should be excluded from work for 7 days** or until symptoms have resolved, whichever is longer, based on CDC recommendations.

### **Reporting & Testing Guidelines for Novel Influenza A (H1N1)**

CDPHE’s current testing priority is to conduct **public health monitoring** for more severe illness due to novel influenza A (H1N1).

- It is neither necessary nor feasible to test for H1N1 in every person with influenza-like illness.
- H1N1 testing is now available through one or more commercial laboratories.

- Persons with uncomplicated influenza-like illness who are not at high risk for influenza complications do **NOT** need to be seen by a health care provider and do **NOT** need to be tested for H1N1.
- Persons at high risk for influenza complications who are seen in the outpatient setting can be managed similar to “seasonal” influenza, either empirically or based on rapid influenza testing (which might have either false positive or false negative results).
- **CDPHE testing for H1N1 is not intended for diagnosis and clinical management.**
- For both seasonal influenza and novel H1N1 influenza, hospitalized patients and pediatric deaths are reportable to either CDPHE or your local health department.

Further information can be found through the CDC website: <http://www.cdc.gov/h1n1flu/>.

To determine if H1N1 transmission is occurring in your community, please monitor the CDC website: <http://www.cdc.gov/flu/weekly/>.

#### Resources:

- **Self-Care during an Influenza Epidemic/Pandemic**  
[http://www.tchd.org/pdfs/influenza\\_self\\_care\\_fact\\_sheet.pdf](http://www.tchd.org/pdfs/influenza_self_care_fact_sheet.pdf)
- **Taking Care of a Sick Person in Your Home**  
[http://www.cdc.gov/h1n1flu/guidance\\_homecare.htm](http://www.cdc.gov/h1n1flu/guidance_homecare.htm)
- **Advice for Parents on Talking to Children About Novel H1N1 Flu**  
<http://www.cdc.gov/h1n1flu/talkingtokids.htm>
- **Swine Flu FAQ**  
<http://www.cdphe.state.co.us/epr/Public/H1N1/SwineFAQ.pdf>

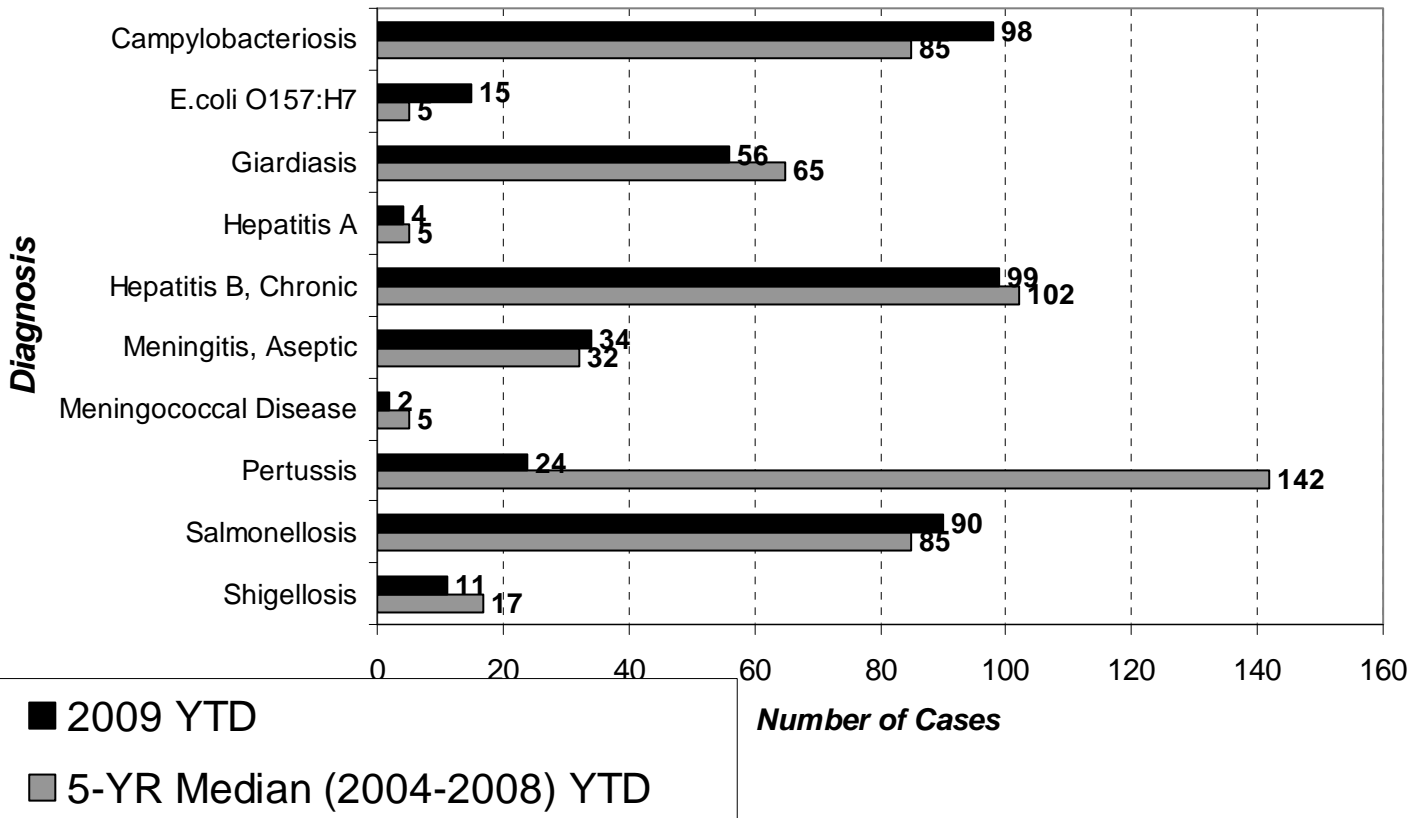
If you have questions please contact your state or local health department:

Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment:  
(303) 692-2700 / (303) 370-9395 (after hours)  
Fax: (303) 782-0338

Tri-County Health Department:  
(303) 220-9200 / (303) 461-2342 (after hours)  
Fax: (303) 846-6295

*Infectious disease control staff at Tri-County Health Department includes:*  
*Tista Ghosh, MD, MPH, Medical Epidemiologist*  
*Anita Watkins, MPH, Disease Intervention Coordinator*  
*Jennifer Brown, DVM, MPH, Disease Intervention Specialist*  
*Nereida Corral, Disease Intervention Specialist*  
*Donna Hite-Bynum, Disease Intervention Specialist*  
*Taylor Jones, MPH, Disease Intervention Specialist*  
*Tiffany White, PhD, MPH, Disease Intervention Specialist*

## Selected Diseases by Date of Report Adams, Arapahoe, and Douglas Counties 2009 YTD Through July



**Colorado H1N1 Provider Pre-registration form**

All providers administering H1N1 vaccine need to be willing to report doses administered to CDPHE. The attached form is designed to collect information about providers that may potentially administer H1N1 vaccinations so that CDPHE can work to enroll them into the Colorado Immunization Information System (CIIS), which will be used to track doses administered. The minimum H1N1 vaccine order is 100 doses. Please consider this prior to pre-registering.

- **Submit completed forms to Jennifer Trainer at [jennifer.trainer@state.co.us](mailto:jennifer.trainer@state.co.us) or 303-691-7811 by September 9, 2009.**
- **For questions about pre-registration or vaccine tracking, please contact Diana Herrero at [diana.herrero@state.co.us](mailto:diana.herrero@state.co.us).**

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**Office Name** \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City, State, Zip Code \_\_\_\_\_

Phone \_\_\_\_\_ Fax \_\_\_\_\_

**Are you currently participating in the Colorado Immunization Information System (CIIS)?**     Yes     No

**Providers/Mid-level Providers**

Name	Title (MD, OD, etc)	COPIC	
		Malpractice Ins.	VFC Provider
_____	Title _____	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No
_____	Title _____	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No
_____	Title _____	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No
_____	Title _____	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No
_____	Title _____	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No

**Primary Contact Person**

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Title/Position \_\_\_\_\_

Phone \_\_\_\_\_ Fax \_\_\_\_\_

Email \_\_\_\_\_

**Back up Contact Person**

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Title/Position \_\_\_\_\_

Phone \_\_\_\_\_ Fax \_\_\_\_\_

Email \_\_\_\_\_

**Type of Office:**     Community Health     Community Vaccinator     Family Practice

Hospital     Internal Medicine     HMO     OB/GYN     Pharmacy

Public Health     Pediatric     Rural Health     Higher Ed Health Clinic

Other: \_\_\_\_\_

**Vaccines for Children (VFC) PIN #** \_\_\_\_\_

**What do you project will be your vaccine administration capacity specifically for H1N1 vaccine?**

<100       100–1000       1000–5000       >5000

**What age group is your target audience?**  <6       7–18       19–64       >65

**Do you have enough vaccine refrigerators to store your current administration capacity?**

Yes       No

**Do you have certified and calibrated thermometers in each of these refrigerators?**

Yes       No

**How many vaccinations (include: routine pediatric and adult and all seasonal influenza doses) in total were administered in 2008?** \_\_\_\_\_

**Are you willing to use patient screening and consent forms provided by CDPHE?**

Yes       No

**Are you willing to report doses administered data to CDPHE either through CIIS or another approved mechanism?**       Yes       No

**Technical/computer support**

Company \_\_\_\_\_

Contact person \_\_\_\_\_ Title \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

Phone \_\_\_\_\_ Email \_\_\_\_\_

**Electronic Medical Record or Billing Software**

Name of Product \_\_\_\_\_ Type \_\_\_\_\_

Company \_\_\_\_\_

Contact Person \_\_\_\_\_ Title \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

Phone \_\_\_\_\_ Email \_\_\_\_\_