



County of Erie

DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH
CHRIS COLLINS
COUNTY EXECUTIVE

ANTHONY J. BILLITTIER IV, M.D., FACEP
COMMISSIONER OF HEALTH



HEALTH ALERT PRIORITY #267

March 10, 2010

H1N1 Influenza Vaccine Update

The Erie County Department of Health (ECDOH) has partnered with Independent Health, Univera Healthcare, and BlueCross BlueShield of Western New York to enhance our ability to quickly distribute important information to health care providers in Erie County. We think this collaboration will serve all of us well.

This message:

- Reminds you about the need for a second dose of H1N1 vaccine for children <10 years of age;
- Requests that you continue to vaccinate patients for H1N1 influenza and retain your current stocks of vaccine in case there is a disease resurgence;
- Reminds you to report all vaccine doses administered.

Reminder on second vaccine doses for children less than 10.

Children less than 10 years old are recommended to get a second dose of H1N1 vaccine at least 28 days after the first dose. The state immunization registry or NYSIIS can be used to check on which children need a second dose and can generate reminder lists and letters.

- When available administer the same product used for dose one otherwise either nasal spray or injectable vaccine may be used for the second dose
- Pre-filled 0.25 ml syringes for children under age 3 years are no longer available. Please use vaccine from multi-dose vials for second doses of injectable vaccine.
- NYSDOH has waived the provisions of state law which usually restricts the use of thimerosal-containing influenza vaccines in pregnant women and children under the age of 3 years. There is no scientific evidence of harm caused by the low doses of thimerosal in vaccines. For more information, see:
http://www.nyhealth.gov/diseases/communicable/influenza/h1n1/health_care_providers/frequently_asked_questions/vaccine_containing_thimerosal.htm

Continue to vaccinate for H1N1 influenza and retain current vaccine stocks.

January through March is the traditional influenza season. While disease activity is now low, there is a real possibility of an additional wave of pandemic H1N1 influenza disease, similar to what happened in the 1957-1958 pandemic. As a result, the New York State Department of Health (NYSDOH) is encouraging you to:

- Continue to offer and encourage H1N1 influenza vaccination to your patients;

- Retain your current supply of H1N1 influenza vaccine in your office, unless you do not have sufficient space to store it. Please contact the Erie County Department of Health (ECDOH) at 716-961-6862 if you have vaccine that you are unable to store;
- Instructions on what to do with unused vaccine will be provided in the future.

Reminder to report vaccine doses administered.

The federal provider agreement which you signed to receive H1N1 influenza vaccine commits you to report vaccine usage.

- Vaccine given to persons less than 19 years of age must be reported by state law to the New York State Immunization Information System (NYSIIS). For more information, see: http://www.health.state.ny.us/prevention/immunization/information_system/
- Doses given to persons age 19 years and older may be reported to NYSIIS, or aggregate doses administered must be reported to the NYSDOH telephone or web-based systems. See: http://www.nyhealth.gov/diseases/communicable/influenza/h1n1/health_care_providers/vaccine/docs/vaccine_reporting_requirements.pdf
- Please call 1-800 KID-SHOT if you have any questions. Thank you for your continued efforts to vaccinate New Yorkers against influenza.

Health Category Definitions:

Health Alert FLASH: conveys the highest level of importance due to a large-scale, catastrophic public health emergency; warrants immediate action or attention

Health Alert Priority: conveys the highest level of importance; warrants immediate action or attention to a health problem or situation

Health Advisory: provides important information for a specific incident or situation; may not require immediate action

Health Update: provides updated information regarding an incident or situation; no immediate action necessary

The ECDOH Health Alert & Advisory System is an e-mail notification system designed to alert community partners about important health related information. **You can sign up to receive alerts & advisories at www.erie.gov/health/services/health_professionals.asp.**

The Erie County Department of Health does not provide medical advice. The information provided herein and on the Erie County Department of Health website is not intended as a substitute for professional medical advice, diagnosis, or treatment. Always seek the advice of your personal physician or other qualified health provider with any questions you may have regarding a medical condition or issue. Never disregard professional medical advice or delay in seeking it because of the content found on the Erie County Department of Health website or this correspondence.