



# STATE OF NEW YORK DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH

Corning Tower The Governor Nelson A. Rockefeller Empire State Plaza Albany, New York 12237

Richard F. Daines, M.D.  
*Commissioner*

James W. Clyne, Jr.  
*Executive Deputy Commissioner*

September 14, 2009

Dear Pediatric Health Care Provider:

This letter provides information about how to pre-register your practice (located outside of New York City\*) for novel influenza A (H1N1) monovalent vaccine to be administered to your pediatric patients (less than 19 years of age) and office staff.

The novel H1N1 influenza virus, in conjunction with regular seasonal influenza viruses, has the potential to cause significant illness, hospitalizations and deaths this flu season starting this fall. Influenza vaccination is the most effective method to prevent influenza infection. A novel influenza A (H1N1) monovalent vaccine is expected to be available by mid-October 2009. In cooperation with the federal government and local health departments, the New York State Department of Health (NYSDOH) will make the monovalent vaccine available to health care providers in New York State (outside New York City). This undertaking will require the active participation of a wide range of immunization providers, but office-based providers will play a key role in delivering influenza vaccine to their targeted patients.

The following populations are recommended by CDC to receive novel influenza A (H1N1) monovalent vaccine as soon as possible:

- Pregnant women
- Household contacts and caregivers for children younger than 6 months of age
- Healthcare and emergency medical services personnel
- All people from 6 months through 24 years of age
- Persons aged 25 through 64 years who have health conditions associated with higher risk of medical complications from influenza

The full recommendations are available in the Morbidity and Mortality Weekly Report, August 28, 2009/58 at <http://www.cdc.gov/mmwr/preview/mmwrhtml/rr5810a1.htm>.

Both the vaccine and the supplies required to administer the vaccine will be provided by the Federal government at no charge. Reimbursement for vaccine administration is likely to be covered by most private health insurers and will be covered by public health insurance (Medicaid/Medicare) plans.

Issues regarding the liability and costs associated with administering the H1N1 influenza monovalent vaccine are being addressed. The United States Department of Health and Human Services has issued a Public Readiness and Emergency Preparedness "PREP" Act declaration for novel H1N1 influenza countermeasures. This declaration provides liability protections to providers of H1N1 influenza vaccine.

\*To obtain H1N1 vaccine in New York City, contact the NYC Department of Health and Mental Hygiene at <http://www.nyc.gov/html/doh/html/cir/a03c.html> or call 212-676-2323.

The allocation and distribution of the vaccine in New York State (outside New York City) will be managed by the NYSDOH in coordination with county health departments. In order to receive novel H1N1 influenza monovalent vaccine, providers must pre-register with NYSDOH. The information you provide will assist in allocating H1N1 vaccine throughout the State, taking into consideration the targeted population groups to receive the H1N1 vaccine.

New York State Law requires that all vaccinations of pediatric patients (less than 19 years of age) be entered into the New York State Immunization Information System (NYSIIS), the state's immunization registry. All providers that are interested in receiving novel H1N1 influenza monovalent vaccine for use in pediatric patients (less than 19 years of age) must complete three steps. These can be completed by accessing this website:

<https://hcsteamwork1.health.state.ny.us/pub>

**1. Establish a NYSDOH Health Commerce System (HCS) account**

- The Health Commerce System (HCS) (also referred to as the Health Provider Network or the HPN) is a secure web-based system designed by the NYSDOH specifically for electronically exchanging health-related data and information between health care providers and NYSDOH.
- Note: this is the same account that physicians use to order prescription pads and update their Physician Profile; all physicians should have an account.
- Completing the on-line HCS application request form will bring the user to the H1N1 vaccine pre-registration form and the HCS application information will pre-populate appropriate fields to expedite the H1N1 vaccine pre-registration process.

**2. Pre-register interest in receiving H1N1 vaccine with the NYSDOH vaccine program**

- This pre-registration process is designed for you to express interest only and does not obligate you to receive/administer vaccine nor does it guarantee you will receive vaccine if supplies are limited.
- Users with a current HCS account can use their log in id to pre-populate the vaccine pre-registration form and expedite the process.
- Once your registration is received and the remaining details of the vaccination campaign have been finalized, you will be contacted by the vaccine program to sign the formal provider agreement that has been supplied by the Federal government, agreeing to appropriately store and handle the vaccine, to give vaccines only to the CDC targeted groups, and to report vaccine usage.

**3. Establish access in the New York State Immunization Information System (NYSIIS), also known as the immunization registry (see attached fact sheet).**

- NYSIIS participation is required by NYS law for providers who immunize children less than 19 years of age. Participating in training establishes a NYSIIS user account.
- 47 electronic health record/billing vendors are approved to automatically upload immunization information into NYSIIS.
- The website above provides additional information on an online orientation to NYSIIS and training opportunities for new users.

## **Reporting to the New York State Immunization Information System (NYSIIS).**

NYSIIS provides a number of advantages for providers of H1N1 monovalent vaccine: 1) automatically generates the federally mandated weekly vaccine usage reports, 2) monitors vaccine inventory to enable prompt reordering, 3) generates reminder lists and letters for the second influenza vaccine dose, if required, 4) provides a legal record of the vaccination, 5) enables correct ascertainment of prior influenza vaccine history if patients receive some influenza vaccine doses (seasonal and/or monovalent H1N1) at other provider sites, and 6) enables NYSDOH to more closely monitor possible vaccine adverse events.

Your participation in the H1N1 influenza monovalent vaccine campaign is essential to ensuring that New Yorkers receive the most effective protection against H1N1 influenza. For more information on the novel H1N1 influenza monovalent vaccine, please go to the NYSDOH website at: <http://www.health.state.ny.us/diseases/communicable/influenza/h1n1/> or the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention's (CDC) website at: <http://www.cdc.gov/h1n1flu/>. If you have any further questions, please contact the NYSDOH H1N1 hotline at 1-800-808-1987.

Sincerely,



Guthrie S. Birkhead, M.D., M.P.H.  
Deputy Commissioner  
Office of Public Health

Attachment – NYSIIS and H1N1 Fact Sheet



## **The New York State Immunization Information System (NYSIIS)**

### **and H1N1 Vaccine**

#### **What is NYSIIS?**

The New York State Immunization Information System (NYSIIS) is a confidential, secure, web-based system that maintains one consolidated immunization record for persons of all ages in New York State (outside of New York City). Public Health Law 2168 mandates health care providers report information on vaccinations administered to all persons less than 19 years of age. New York State Department of Health is working to eliminate the requirement for separate written consent for individuals 19 years of age and older.

As of September 2009, NYSIIS contains more than 2.4 million patient records and nearly 28 million immunizations. There are more than 6,800 individual users from 2,200 different health care provider organizations and 1,012 schools across the state.

New York State is not alone in this endeavor. As a nation, we are targeting the Healthy People 2010 goal of having 95% of children less than six years of age with two or more immunizations in an immunization information system. NYS is making great strides toward this goal. We are at 65.7% as of September 2009 – nearly double where we were one year ago.

#### **Why Do We Need NYSIIS?**

For the H1N1 campaign, NYSIIS will be essential for information tracking. The system will allow users to track vaccine inventory and usage on a daily and weekly basis, as required by the Federal government; will provide a key source of information on possible adverse events; will facilitate the generation of reminders for the likely second H1N1 dose by medical practices; will allow review of practice coverage rates, and will serve as a record of the immunization. In addition, by consolidating vaccinations from multiple visits and possible multiple providers into one reliable record, time and paperwork are reduced and accurate immunization histories for providers, patients, schools, camps, day-care centers and colleges will be available.

#### **Will I need to participate in NYSIIS to receive H1N1 vaccine?**

Providers who administer any immunization to persons less than 19 years of age are required by state law to report to NYSIIS. This includes the 2009 influenza A (H1N1) monovalent vaccine. Providers are also strongly encouraged to use NYSIIS to track immunization information for persons 19 years of age and older.

While many providers that immunize children already participate in NYSIIS, most providers that care for adult patients are not yet participating. NYSDOH will provide training, education and technological support to assist new providers.

continued

### **How Do I Get Access to NYSIIS?**

NYSIIS is accessed via the Health Commerce System (HCS), designed for the electronic exchange of health related data and information between health care providers and NYSDOH. Licensed health care professionals can apply for an HCS account at:  
<https://hcsteamwork1.health.state.ny.us/pub>.

Once an HCS account has been established, providers must complete NYSIIS training, which authorizes access to NYSIIS. These training opportunities can be found at:  
[https://commerce.health.state.ny.us/hpn/bcdc/immunization/training\\_info.html](https://commerce.health.state.ny.us/hpn/bcdc/immunization/training_info.html).

### **How Do I Report Immunizations?**

H1N1 immunizations can be reported using direct on-line data entry or by batch file transfer from an electronic health record or billing system. The following 47 systems are already approved to submit data to NYSIIS:

ACME	Medical Communication Systems
ADS (Medex Premiere) (NEIC)	Medical Manager
Allscripts - MYSIS	Medisoft/Medinotes
CDS (Contemporary Data Services)	Meditech
Cerner System	MicroMD
CMI Medical Systems	Mitchell McCormick
EasyBilling	NextGen
Ecast	Office Practicum
Eclinical Works	PerfectCare
Eclipsys	Physician's Computer Company
EncounterPro	Physicians Solution
EPIC	PMP
EZImmune	PractiCare
GE Healthcare -Centricity	Practice Made Perfect
Hypocrates	Practice Partner
Iatric	Priority Management Group
McKesson	Pyramid Partner
MD Everywhere	Quicksilver Computers
MDOffice	Sage (Medical Manager)
Medallies (working with NextGen)	SoapWare
Medcomp	Synamed
MedData	Virtual Officeware
Medent (Community Computer/Health Sys Tech)	Welligent
Medfx	

### **Where Can I Get More Information?**

Contact NYSIIS Program staff at (518) 473-2839 or [nysiis@health.state.ny.us](mailto:nysiis@health.state.ny.us) for additional information.