

DPHHS HAN

From: DPHHS HAN
Sent: Tuesday, August 11, 2009 1:48 PM
Subject: DPHHS HAN ADVISORY 2009-27: Seasonal Influenza Vaccine Recommendations
Attachments: Seasonal Influenza Memo HAN.pdf

State of Montana

DPHHS HAN ADVISORY

Tuesday, August 11, 2009

Forwarding Instructions:

FORWARD to your local HAN contacts

DPHHS Information / Recommendations:

Please read the attached document regarding Seasonal Influenza Vaccine Recommendations. DPHHS will distribute a press release containing related information. Please anticipate questions from the media and the public.

DPHHS Subject Matter Expert (SME) Contact:

For questions contact the Immunization Program at (406) 444-5580

**Distributed by the Department of Public Health and Human Services
Health Alert Network (HAN) System**

DPHHS Health Alert Hotline: 1-800-701-5769

DPHHS HAN Website: www.han.mt.gov

You have received this message based upon the information contained within our emergency notification data base. If you have a different e-mail or fax address that you would like us to use please notify us as soon as possible by e-mail at hhshan@mt.gov.

The goal of Montana's Health Alert Network is to transmit information to local public health authorities as quickly as possible, and assign a suitable priority to the message. For questions or comments about Montana's HAN system you may contact the DPHHS HAN Coordinator, Gerry Wheat at gwheat@mt.gov.

Categories of Health Alert Messages:

Health Alert: conveys the highest level of importance; warrants immediate action or attention.

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; unlikely to require immediate action.

DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES



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TO: Local Health Departments
FROM: Department of Public Health and Human Services, Communicable Disease
Control and Prevention Bureau
DATE: August 11, 2009
SUBJECT: Preparing to administer 2009-2010 Seasonal Influenza Vaccine

Since spring 2009 the novel H1N1 influenza virus and illness caused by this virus has been a focus of attention for public health workers in the U.S. and around the world. It is possible, although not yet known for sure, that a vaccine to provide protection against this virus will be available for use during the autumn 2009. However, it is important not to forget the risks posed by seasonal influenza viruses which are very likely to be circulating again in the northern hemisphere during the coming autumn and winter.

The purpose of this communication is to provide information about the 2009-2010 seasonal influenza vaccine and to encourage administration of seasonal vaccine as soon as it is available.

THE SEASONAL VACCINE: Three influenza viruses are represented in the seasonal vaccine. One of the viruses is an influenza B virus [B/Brisbane/60/2008-like], one is an influenza A H3N2 virus [A/Brisbane/10/2007(H3N2)-like], and one is an influenza A H1N1 virus [A/Brisbane/59/2007(H1N1)-like]. The fact that the seasonal vaccine contains an influenza A H1N1 virus may cause some confusion. There is no reason to think that developing antibodies to the H1N1 virus in seasonal influenza vaccine will provide protection against the novel influenza A H1N1 virus that has been circulating in pandemic fashion. However, it is anticipated the seasonal vaccine will provide protection against the seasonal influenza A H1N1 virus and the other influenza viruses represented in the vaccine. (As always, it is not possible to predict now the exact extent to which this year's seasonal vaccine will be a good match with the seasonal influenza viruses that circulate during the coming months.)

WHEN TO ADMINISTER THE SEASONAL INFLUENZA VACCINE: The single best way to protect yourself, your loved ones, and the population you serve against influenza is to get vaccinated each year. It is not too early to get influenza vaccine as soon as it is available. If it is available in August, start administering the vaccine. If your supply is not delivered until September, start administering the vaccine in September. **The protection you get from the vaccine will not wear off before the influenza season is over.** (See pages 12-13 of <http://www.cdc.gov/mmwr/pdf/rr/rr5808.pdf>)

While it is best for persons who want to avoid getting seasonal influenza not to delay getting vaccinated, some persons will likely delay. These persons should be encouraged to get vaccinated throughout the influenza season, into December, January, February, and even March.

WHO SHOULD BE VACCINATED WITH SEASONAL INFLUENZA VACCINE?

The ACIP recommends vaccination with seasonal influenza vaccine for almost all persons. Persons who should be vaccinated are:

Children aged 6 months to 18 years : The ACIP now recommends vaccination for essentially all children aged 6 months to 18 years (with the exceptions noted in the section “Persons for whom seasonal influenza vaccine is not recommended”, see below).

Some children and adolescents are at higher risk for influenza complications. Vaccination efforts should continue to be a focus for these groups:

- are aged 6 months--4 years (59 months);
- have chronic pulmonary (including asthma), cardiovascular (except hypertension), renal, hepatic, cognitive, neurologic/neuromuscular, hematological or metabolic disorders (including diabetes mellitus);
- are immunosuppressed (including immunosuppression caused by medications or by human immunodeficiency virus);
- are receiving long-term aspirin therapy and therefore might be at risk for experiencing Reye’s syndrome after influenza virus infection;
- are residents of long-term care facilities; and
- will be pregnant during the influenza season.

Adults: The ACIP recommends vaccination for essentially all adults (with the exceptions noted in the section “Persons for whom seasonal influenza vaccine is not recommended”, see below).

Annual vaccination against influenza is recommended for any adult who wants to reduce the risk of becoming ill with influenza or of transmitting it to others. Vaccination is especially important for adults in the following groups, because these persons either are at higher risk for influenza complications, or are close contacts of persons at higher risk:

- persons aged 50 years and older;
- women who will be pregnant during the influenza season;
- persons who have chronic pulmonary (including asthma), cardiovascular (except hypertension), renal, hepatic, cognitive, neurologic/neuromuscular, hematological or metabolic disorders (including diabetes mellitus);
- persons who have immunosuppression (including immunosuppression caused by medications or by human immunodeficiency virus);
- residents of nursing homes and other long-term care facilities;
- health-care personnel;

- household contacts and caregivers of children aged <5 years and adults aged 50 years and older, with particular emphasis on vaccinating contacts of children aged <6 months; and
- household contacts and caregivers of persons with medical conditions that put them at higher risk for severe complications from influenza

PERSONS FOR WHOM SEASONAL INFLUENZA VACCINE IS NOT

RECOMMENDED: Influenza vaccine is not recommended for the following persons:

- People who have a severe allergy to chicken eggs.
- People who have had a severe reaction to an influenza vaccination.
- People who developed Guillain-Barré syndrome (GBS) within 6 weeks of getting an influenza vaccine.
- Children less than 6 months of age (influenza vaccine is not approved for this age group), and
- People who have a moderate-to-severe illness with a fever (they should wait until they recover to get vaccinated.)

MORE INFORMATION: Specific information about dosing and number of doses for the seasonal influenza vaccines available this year can be found at <http://www.cdc.gov/flu/professionals/acip/dosage.htm#tab2>.

If you have questions about seasonal influenza vaccination issues, contact Lisa Underwood at Lunderwood@mt.gov or (406) 444-0065.