State of Montana

DPHHS HAN ADVISORY

Thursday, December 03, 2009

Forwarding Instructions:
FORWARD to your local HAN contacts

DPHHS Information / Recommendations:

DPHHS Warns of E-mail Scam Related to H1N1 Vaccine

The Montana Department of Public Health and Human Services today reported that the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) have warned the state of fraudulent e-mails (phishing) referencing a CDC sponsored State Vaccination Program.

Several local and tribal health departments across the state are experiencing the e-mail scam that asks recipients of the messages to register personal information if they have been given the 2009 H1N1 vaccine.

The messages request that users must create a personal H1N1 Vaccination Profile on the cdc.gov website. The message then states that anyone that has reached the age of 18 has to have his/her personal Vaccination Profile on the cdc.gov site.

CDC has not implemented a state vaccination program requiring registration. Users that click on the e-mail are at risk of having a malicious program code installed on their system. DPHHS reminds users to take the following steps to reduce the risk of being a victim of a phishing attack:

- Do not follow unsolicited links and do not open or respond to unsolicited email messages.
- Use caution when visiting un-trusted websites.
- Use caution when entering personal information online.

Phishing is a common term used by computer users to refer to deceptive e-mails that request private or confidential information over the Internet, such as credit card numbers, passwords, or other personal data.

“We really want computer users to protect themselves and their personal information,” said DPHHS Director Anna Whiting Sorrell. “If anyone has questions, they should talk with their local health department. This scam should not deter anyone from getting the 2009 H1N1 vaccine.”

For more information about influenza and the 2009 H1N1 vaccine, visit www.dphhs.mt.gov.

DPHHS Subject Matter Expert (SME) Contact:

For additional information contact Jim Murphy, Communicable Disease Control and Prevention, DPHHS, 406-444-4016 or Jon Ebelt, Public Information Officer, DPHHS, 406-444-0936

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 database. 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 gheat@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.