

Pandemic (H1N1) 2009

Please distribute to all physicians at this fax.

Date: November 2, 2009
To: All Alberta Physicians
From: Senior Physician Executive
Re: **H1N1 Immunization Update: Healthcare Workers and Public Campaign**

Healthcare Worker H1N1 Immunization Program Resumption

The AHS Healthcare Worker Immunization Program (which includes physicians and their office staff) was temporarily suspended last week due to a national reduction in the supply of H1N1 vaccine. The Healthcare Worker Immunization Program will resume **Wed, Nov 4, 2009** in a phased approach.

- **Phase 1** will focus on the delivery of vaccine to healthcare workers that provide direct hands on care and/or face-to-face interaction with patients.
- **Phase 2** of the program will focus on the healthcare workers and support staff that have limited or no direct hands on care or face-to-face interaction with patients.
- Communication on our coordinated move from Phase 1 to Phase 2 will be issued out of the AHS Emergency Coordination Centre (ECC).

Healthcare Workers will be required to show identification at immunization clinics: physician clinic staff may present physician letterhead or prescription pads with their names on them in lieu of AHS ID. Local immunization clinic schedules are available on the AHS For Health Professionals web site (www.albertahealthservices.ca/660.asp) or by contacting your Zone EOC.

H1N1 Immunization Campaign Shifts to High Risk

Due to the unexpected national shortage of the H1N1 vaccine, Alberta Health Services and Alberta Health and Wellness announced plans to begin targeted immunization of Albertans at high risk.

- Starting on **Thurs, Nov 5, children aged 6 months (on day of vaccination) to under five years as of November 1st** will be targeted. Proof of age (Health Care card, birth certificate or other valid identification) must be provided.
- On **Friday, Nov 6**, the program will expand to include **pregnant women**.

At this time, the vaccine will not be available to other Albertans. When more vaccine becomes available, the targeted immunization program will expand to include people under 65 with chronic health conditions. All Albertans who want to be immunized will have that opportunity when increased supply of the vaccine arrives from the manufacturer. To ensure vaccine can be provided to high risk groups, no exceptions can be allowed. This is a province-wide roll-out. For clinical locations see: <http://www.albertahealthservices.ca/887.asp>

For more information visit the website: <http://www.albertahealthservices.ca/660.asp>
Or contact: AHS.ECC@albertahealthservices.ca

Physician Urgent: Immunization Update: Healthcare Workers and Public Campaign
Issued by: Workplace Health, Safety and Employee Wellness
Approved by: Senior Physician Executive and ECC

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