



Memorandum

TO: Healthcare Providers in Texas

FROM: Department of State Health Services

DATE: September 1, 2009

SUBJECT: Novel H1N1 Vaccine Registration and Ordering Instructions

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) announced that a vaccine to protect against novel H1N1 influenza may be available by mid-October. This memorandum provides an overview of the process for providers to follow in order to obtain the novel H1N1 vaccine.

The novel H1N1 vaccine will not be distributed via the usual channels. The Texas Department of State Health Services (DSHS) will coordinate the ordering and distribution of this vaccine. In order for providers to obtain vaccine, they must follow the registration and ordering processes outlined in this memorandum. This memorandum will be updated as needed and posted on www.TexasFlu.org. Registration and ordering processes have been set up on an online system, and ongoing updates to registered providers will be communicated via email. If you do not have access to the Internet, please contact the DSHS H1N1 provider call center toll-free at (877) 623-6274, Monday through Friday, 8:00 AM through 5:00 PM, Central Standard Time.

There will be four stages associated with obtaining the novel H1N1 vaccine:

- Stage 1: Provider Pre-registration
- Stage 2: Registration
- Stage 3: Vaccine Ordering
- Stage 4: Doses Administered and ImmTrac Reporting

Special Note for TVFC Providers:

The novel H1N1 vaccine will *not* be offered through the Texas Vaccines for Children Program (TVFC). TVFC providers must use the novel H1N1 ordering process outlined below.

Stage 1: Provider Pre-registration

Effective immediately, healthcare providers interested in administering the novel H1N1 vaccine *must* pre-register by visiting www.TexasFlu.org and completing an online pre-registration form.

Healthcare providers are strongly encouraged to pre-register by September 13th in order to assist DSHS with statewide planning; however, pre-registration will continue throughout the H1N1 vaccination campaign.

The pre-registration must be authorized by a medical professional who is licensed to prescribe medication in the State of Texas, namely the following: medical doctor, doctor of osteopathy, nurse practitioner, or a physician assistant. This medical professional may authorize multiple sites under his or her purview. Providers may choose to have vaccine shipped to multiple sites or to a single site for redistribution. A form must be completed for *each* site where vaccine will be shipped. The authorization is communicated by entering the name and medical license number of the authorizing individual on the pre-registration form. Authorized registering providers may also include those on a federal military reservation within the state.

The pre-registration form also asks for the following:

- Shipping address, hours when vaccine deliveries are accepted, and contact information
- An estimate of the maximum number of doses that you can receive for your initial order, based on your refrigeration capacity and assuming bulky packaging (syringes)
- An estimate of the number of seasonal influenza doses you administered during the 2008-2009 influenza season
- The ImmTrac PFS number if you are currently enrolled in ImmTrac, and TVFC PIN number if you are a TVFC provider
- Your best estimate of the number of patients (not number of doses) you expect to vaccinate, by age and risk categories (if a patient falls into more than one category, please enter them in only one group):
 - Children 6 – 23 months
 - Children 24 – 35 months
 - Children 36 – 47 months
 - Children 48 – 59 months
 - Children 5 – 18 years, by high risk and non-high risk
 - Adults 19 – 24 years, by high risk and non-high risk
 - Adults 25 – 64 years, by high risk and non-high risk
 - Adults 65 years and older
 - Pregnant women
 - Health Care and EMS personnel – w/direct patient contact
 - Health Care and EMS Personnel – All Other
 - Household contacts and caregivers of infants younger than 6 months

Stage 2: Final Registration

Final registration will take place at a later date and will consist of electronically signing the H1N1 Provider Agreement required by the CDC. Providers will be notified when the final registration is available. Providers will be able to sign the agreement electronically by entering the authorized provider's name and license number in the appropriate fields and selecting the submit button. Additional registration information will be provided as it becomes available.

Stage 3: Vaccine Ordering

Once vaccine becomes available for a provider, DSHS will notify the provider via email to logon to www.TexasFlu.org to approve the order. At that time, providers will have the ability to adjust the number of doses ordered. Initially, providers may only be able to adjust the number of doses downward due to limitations on vaccine availability. As vaccine becomes more available, providers will be able to order any additional quantities through www.TexasFlu.org that they need to serve their patients. The type of vaccine (intranasal or injectable), allocation, and timing will be based on priority populations.

Stage 4: Doses Administered and ImmTrac Reporting

CDC requires each state to report weekly on doses administered. All providers who receive novel H1N1 vaccine must agree to report doses administered information back to DSHS each week. DSHS is developing a streamlined online reporting system will allow providers to report aggregate doses administered information weekly.

The online system will allow providers to report doses administered by dose one or two, and by various age groups (CDC specifications). Providers should open the *Report Doses Administered* tab and enter the aggregate number of doses administered for the week. Providers may also see a history of prior doses administered entries by date.

ImmTrac, the statewide immunization registry and disaster preparedness and tracking system, can be used to report specific vaccination information on each person immunized regardless of age in this novel H1N1 response situation. The person immunized can then retrieve their immunization record in the future.

Additional Information for Providers

The H1N1 vaccine is free of charge to providers and vaccine recipients. Details on reimbursement for vaccine administration will be disseminated as soon as it is available; however, providers should assume that the vaccine administration fee will be a covered benefit. The CPT code for the vaccine is 90663.

The CDC has also notified states that the following supplies will be provided at no cost to healthcare providers vaccinating with the novel H1N1 vaccine: syringes, needles, sharps containers, and alcohol swabs. Specific information regarding how these items will be shipped has not yet been provided.

The Vaccine Adverse Event Reporting System (VAERS) is a national program that monitors the safety of vaccines after they are licensed. VAERS reporting is a federal routine reporting requirement any time a vaccine is administered in the United States. It is especially important to report any adverse event that resulted in hospitalization, disability, or death. To report an adverse event following vaccination or for more information please visit VAERS at www.vaers.hhs.gov or by calling the VAERS Information Line at 1-800-822-7967. For state specific questions or concerns please contact DSHS at 1-800-252-9152.

Thank you for your interest and support for this important effort to protect Texans against H1N1 disease. Additional information will be provided at www.TexasFlu.org as it becomes available.