



STATE OF MARYLAND

DHMH

Maryland Department of Health and Mental Hygiene
201 W. Preston Street • Baltimore, Maryland 21201

Martin O'Malley, Governor – Anthony G. Brown, Lt. Governor – John M. Colmers, Secretary

Developmental Disabilities Administration

Michael S. Chapman, Executive Director

TO: DDA Licensed Service Providers
All Concerned

FROM: Michael S. Chapman, Executive Director, Developmental Disabilities Administration
Peter Sybinsky, Ph.D., Chief of Staff, Public Health Services

DATE: December 3, 2009

RE: **H1N1 Vaccines**

In an effort to be proactive, the Developmental Disabilities Administration (DDA) is collaborating with the Public Health Services (PHS) Administration to prevent the contraction and spread of seasonal flu and H1N1 flu among the DD community. Together, DDA and PHS representatives have explored options for people with developmental disabilities to obtain the vaccine since many are within the targeted group considered high risk. People receiving services have traditionally accessed these vaccines through community providers. That option remains available.

Who can administer the vaccine?

Several agencies have expressed an interest in holding their own flu clinic in order to expedite vaccinating both people receiving services and care givers. Interested *non-profit* agencies should contact their Local Health Department (LHD) and speak with the Health Officer about becoming a **Community Partner** to assist in the provision of the Maryland 2009 Influenza A (H1N1) Monovalent Vaccine.

What is required if we want to administer the vaccine at our agency?

Agencies need to contact their Local Health Department (LHD) and express interest in entering into a *Community Partner Agreement*. The agency ("Community Partner") must propose a plan for LHD review and approval which will allow vaccines to be administered without charge at a site proposed by the Community Partner.

A copy of the Community Partner Agreement and additional guidance regarding H1N1 Influenza Clinics Sponsored by Community Partners can be viewed on the Maryland DDA website under "Provider Alerts" at <http://www.ddamaryland.org/>.

How can people find other places where the vaccine will be given?

The Maryland DHMH H1N1 website provides information about the location of clinics that have the vaccination available. Please visit www.flu.maryland.gov or call 1-877-MDFLU4U (633-5848).

Who should get the vaccine?

It is critically important that all people receiving services from DDA providers be ensured the opportunity to receive both the seasonal flu and the H1N1 vaccine.

Should people receiving services get the flu mist or the injectable vaccine?

Consider working with your nursing staff to identify those individuals who are appropriate to receive the flu mist vs. the injectable vaccine. (Flu mist may be contraindicated if the individual has asthma, heart disease or is pregnant.) Consider also that absence from work by staff could have a formidable impact on your program; therefore, agencies should encourage staff to be vaccinated.

What consent is needed to receive the vaccine?

The DDA has requested that the registration/consent form be made available to agencies prior to taking individuals to receive the vaccine. Unfortunately, advance copies of the CARBON forms are not available, but copies of sample forms are posted on the DHMH website for planning and illustrative purposes. The link is: <http://dhmh.maryland.gov/swineflu/reportingVaccinesAdministered.html>. The consent form can be viewed by clicking on "Scan Form." The title of the document is **2009-2010 H1N1 INFLUENZA VACCINATION CONSENT AND ADMINISTRATION RECORD.**

It was suggested that caregivers review the *School Consent for 2009 H1N1 Influenza Vaccine* forms. These forms contain specific questions that are aimed at identifying individuals who will have contraindications to the vaccine. Staff who accompany people with developmental disabilities to the vaccination will need **VACCINATION CONSENT AND ADMINISTRATION RECORD.** The consent indicates the person consenting has reviewed the H1N1 Vaccine Information Sheet (VIS). The H1N1 VIS can be downloaded from the following site <http://www.cdc.gov/vaccines/Pubs/vis/default.htm#h1n1>. Although the carbon consent forms are not available in advance, it is suggested that the capable individuals, guardians or surrogate decision makers review the VIS and complete one of the school consent forms prior to arrival at the clinic site.

Additional information is available on the Maryland DHMH H1N1 website at www.flu.maryland.gov. **Maryland's 24/7 Flu Hotline** can be contacted by dialing 1-877-MDFLU4U (633-5848).