



Arkansas Department of Human Services

Division of Medical Services

Office of Long Term Care Mail Slot S409

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MEMORANDUM

LTC-A-2009-18

TO: Nursing Facilities; ICFs/MR 16 Bed & Over; HDCs;
 ICFs/MR Under 16 Beds; ALF Level I; ALF Level II;
 RCFs; Adult Day Cares; Adult Day Health Cares;
 Post Acute Head Injury Facilities; Interested Parties;
 DHS County Offices

FROM: Carol Shockley, Director, Office of Long Term Care

DATE: November 30, 2009

RE: Advisory Memo - H1N1 Information Update

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The federal government periodically provides updates and information concerning the H1N1 virus. Below is the latest information and resources.

People recommended by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) to receive the H1N1 vaccine as soon possible include: health care workers; pregnant women; people ages 25 through 64 with chronic medical conditions, such as asthma, heart disease, or diabetes; anyone from 6 months through 24 years of age; and people living with or caring for infants under 6 months old.

FLU.gov is a one-stop resource with the latest updates on the H1N1 flu. On this site, you can find information on **How to Prevent and Treat the Flu**, **Flu Essentials** and **Why the H1N1 Vaccine is Safe and Recommended by Health Experts**. To look up where to get vaccinated in your state, visit the **Vaccine Locator**. This information is updated regularly as more doses are shipped each week.

An additional resource is the CDC hotline, 1-800-CDC-INFO (1-800-232-4636), which offers services in English and Spanish, 24 hours a day, 7 days a week.

Heard a rumor? Visit **Myths & Facts** to run a fact check.

2009 H1N1 UPDATES

- Flu activity is already higher than what is seen during the peak of many regular flu seasons. Almost all of the flu viruses identified this season so far are 2009 H1N1.
- All states have placed orders for the 2009 H1N1 vaccine, and more orders are expected daily. Vaccine is arriving in thousands of places across the country. Because the vaccine distribution system varies by state, the vaccine situation on the ground may differ from community to community.
- The 2009 H1N1 vaccine is taking longer to produce than manufacturers initially expected. Scientists, doctors, and manufacturers are working around the clock to produce this vaccine safely, effectively, and as quickly as the science allows. The U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, through state and local health departments, will continue to make the vaccine available as soon as it comes off the production line.
- Clinical trials conducted by the National Institutes of Health and the vaccine manufacturers have shown that the new H1N1 vaccine is both safe and effective.
- In the past, flu pandemics have been characterized by multiple waves. Scientists and doctors recommend H1N1 vaccination even if flu activity slows, as it could resume later in the season.

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CS/bcs