



PUBLIC HEALTH CONNECTIONS

H1N1- WEEKLY EDITION



OCTOBER 26, 2009 - VOLUME 13

H1N1 INFLUENZA PARTNER CONFERENCE CALL FROM FRIDAY, OCTOBER 23, 2009

Each week the Kansas Department of Health and Environment (KDHE) will provide key points that were shared with local health departments (LHDs) and community partners during the previous week's Friday H1N1 Influenza conference call.

We encourage you to participate in the weekly call or play back the recording to keep abreast of new information and updates in policy, guidance and resources.

Clinic Providers Registration

As discussed in the H1N1 conference call with locals on Fri., Oct. 23, KDHE has created a Website for clinic providers to register their publicly available H1N1 vaccination clinics. Click the green registration button above, the Website will request the name, location, dates, times and other information related to the



clinic. This information will be used to populate a page on the KDHE Website. By clicking on the map, Kansans will be directed to locations to receive the H1N1 vaccine. Email any questions to H1N1ClinicLocator@kdheks.gov.

Emergency Use Authorization (EUA) for Peramivir IV

On Fri., Oct. 23, the Food and Administration (FDA) issued an Emergency Use Authorization (EUA) for Peramivir IV. Peramivir IV is an investigational intravenous antiviral drug used to treat people who have been hospitalized due to severe flu illness. The drug is being held in the Strategic National Stockpile (SNS) and distributed by Center for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC).



Peramivir IV is not handled the same as other SNS influenza assets. This drug is being made available directly to physicians. They will request this product from CDC and it will be deployed from SNS for delivery directly to the hospital facility. States are not included in the request process or receipt of this drug.

If physicians in your facility would like additional information on Peramivir IV or would like to request this product, click on the FDA logo above.

For more information concerning this announcement, please contact Barry Autrey, Kansas SNS Coordinator, at bautrey@kdheks.gov, or (785) 291-3243.

PLANNING UPDATE

Immunization Campaign Report

presented by Sue Bowden, Director

Kansas Immunization Program, BDCP, KDHE

The Kansas Immunization Program (KIP) stressed during the Fri., Oct. 23, conference call the following points (to view Sue Bowden's full report, click on the vaccination image below):

1 The Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices (ACIP) and KDHE recommend that the following subset of the initial target groups are at **high priority** for vaccination until vaccine availability increases:



- Pregnant women
- Persons who live with or provide care for infants less than 6 months of age (parents, siblings and daycare providers, etc.)
- Healthcare and emergency medical services personnel who have *direct* contact with patients or infectious material
- Children 6 months through 4 years of age
- Children and adolescents 5-18 years of age who have medical conditions that put them at higher risk for influenza-related complications

2 Every health department should post their H1N1 clinic information for the public into the Clinic Providers Registration system as soon as possible.

3 Vaccine distribution steps for local providers including ordering were discussed. Bowden reinforced the importance of proper packaging when a ship-to site is redistributing vaccine locally, or when a clinic is having a mass vaccination clinic. Ice packs must not be placed directly next to the vaccine. This can result in freezing temperatures that can affect the integrity of the vaccine.

The CDC guidance can be found by clicking the image to the right.

- 4 It is essential that available doses be administered as soon as possible. Vaccine doses should not be sitting in a refrigerator longer than a week.
- 5 When H1N1 Influenza vaccine providers report problems with ancillary supplies, please include the specific product description, manufacturer, expiration date, lot number and details related to the specific issue.
- 6 Updates on Kansas providers, vaccine administration documentation and safety were also reported.



PUBLIC INFORMATION

H1N1 Communication Report

presented by Maggie Thompson, Director of Communication, Office of the Secretary, KDHE

The H1N1 Influenza PIO conference call is being held every Fri. at 11:30 a.m., following the conclusion of the weekly H1N1 call. A different call-in number will be used and a reminder with that information will be sent out each week. To be included on the weekly reminder, please email mthompson@kdheks.gov.

KDHE has begun distributing the H1N1 posters, stickers, temporary tattoos and bookmarks to local health departments. As a reminder, KDHE is asking local health departments (LHDs) to work with schools, hospitals and other community partners to distribute the materials. A notice was sent to local health departments the week of Oct. 12 informing them of their allocations and along with a request to submit an order. If you ordered items, your supply should have been received or should be arriving in the next few days.

If you are interested in ordering more promotional items using your H1N1 funding, please contact Celeste at Brush Art, (785) 454-3383. To get the best pricing for those wanting to order more items, Brush Art will be placing one large order of items next week. Brush Art has asked that you call them by Wed., Oct. 28 to let them know what items you are interested in ordering. They will then provide a cost estimate by the end of the week.

KDHE has now received CDs with the public service announcements (PSAs). A copy of the CD will be mailed to all local health departments, hospitals and schools next week. Anyone else who would like a copy should email Maggie Thompson, Director of Communications, at mthompson@kdheks.gov.

Lastly, the movie theatre advertising will begin across the state on Nov. 20, just in time for the high volume attendance over the Thanksgiving holiday.

EPIDEMIOLOGY/SURVEILLANCE

Bureau of Surveillance and Epidemiology Briefing

presented by Charlie Hunt, State Epidemiologist and Director Bureau of Surveillance and Epidemiology, KDHE



There have been two additional confirmed H1N1 pandemic influenza-related deaths since last week's teleconference, a 48 year-old woman from the southwest region and a 62 year-old man from the northeast region of Kansas. Both of these individuals had underlying chronic medical conditions

placing them at high risk for serious complications. This brings the total deaths due to the H1N1 Influenza A at nine persons.

Highlights from the week of Oct. 19 surveillance and epidemiology report include influenza activity in Kansas, school absenteeism, and hospital admissions for pneumonia or influenza. Click on the Epi logo to view the full report.

PLANNING UPDATE

Updated Provider Agreement

presented by Mindee Reece, Director, Bureau of Public Preparedness, KDHE



KDHE has made updates to the Kansas 2009 Influenza A (H1N1) Provider Agreement to incorporate the latest billing guidelines from the CDC. The changes to the provider agreement occur in the last

section of the agreement as follows: **"In Addition, the Provider."**

- 7 May bill a charge of \$.01 with the vaccine code in order to process claims; however, providers may not bill patients any fee for the vaccine and should inform patients about the \$.01 fee and that it may appear in their insurance statement. ***This is a new item that was not in the original provider form.***
- 8 Should bill payers and insurance plans at their agreed-upon rates, and may accept whatever level of reimbursement is provided by a plan or payer for Influenza A (H1N1) monovalent vaccine administrations. The administration fee shall not exceed the regional Medicare vaccine administration fee. If the administration fee is billed to Medicaid, the amount billed shall not exceed the state Medicaid administration fee. A public health provider may choose to use Public Health Emergency Readiness (PHER) funds to cover the cost of administration fees or may bill third party payers or health insurance plans, as long as duplicate payments are not received for the same service provided to the same patient. A public health provider shall not charge patients a co-pay or other out-of-pocket charge, even if the patient's health plan includes co-pay for vaccine. May, if a member from the private sector, charge a fee for the administration of the vaccine to the patient, their health insurance plan, or other third party payer. In addition, this provider may collect copayment or other charges from patients who are insured to cover costs of vaccine administration, if such charges are permitted by the insurer. If a provider of the private sector has been given PHER funds for vaccine administration, they are subject to follow the same minimum billing requirements of public health providers. ***This is an expansion of what was initially item #7 in the original provider form.***
- 9 (Same as #8 on original provider form)
- 10 (Same as #9 on original provider form)
- 11 (Same as #10 on original provider form)
- 12 (Same as #11 on original provider form)

The updated provider agreement will be sent to local health departments only. For providers that have already been approved, an amendment to the original provider agreement will be created and sent to all approved providers.

OPERATION UPDATES

Antiviral Medication Distribution and Personal Protective Equipment Resources Report

*presented by Michael McNulty, Operations Director
Bureau for Public Health Preparedness, KDHE*

On Wed., Oct. 21, KDHE distributed 123 cases of Tamiflu oral suspension antiviral medications to 34 safety net clinics in Kansas. This distribution is aimed at providing supplies to those facilities that are addressing the needs of Kansas' uninsured population, and that may not have the medication compounding capability that pharmacies have. These facilities should have received the material either Oct. 22 or 23, and it is expected that the clinics will use the material to treat their patients meeting the CDC guidelines.

The registration and contracting process for antiviral distribution sites continues. As of Thurs., Oct. 22, 277 pharmacies, hospitals and safety net clinics had registered, with 74 having signed contracts to become a distribution site. KDHE and partners are continuing to encourage pharmacies, hospitals, and safety net clinics to register and contract to dispense state cache antiviral medication. KDHE is developing plans to re-distribute the medication distributed in May from the local health departments to contracted state antiviral sites. The faster KDHE can contract with these participants, the more widespread this re-distribution effort will be. This should provide supply avenues for Kansas' uninsured and underinsured populations.



KDHE continues to hear reports from community partners concerning physicians and others prescribing Tamiflu contradictory to the recommendations made

by CDC. The public health and health care communities are being encouraged to work together in following these recommendations in order to promote judicious use of the medication. The antiviral medication is still widely available in the commercial market. Therefore, to promote the effectiveness and availability for the most severe cases of H1N1 Influenza A, the medical community should closely follow the CDC antiviral use guidance. Click on the CDC logo to view the guidance.

KDHE is beginning to hear reports of medical facilities and others running low on N95 respirators. KDHE urges all facilities to review their current use protocols for respirators and consider the long-term effect of this dwindling resource. The Oct. 14, "CDC Interim Guidance on Infection Control Measures for 2009 H1N1 Influenza in Healthcare Settings, Including Protection of Healthcare Personnel," recommendations should provide ideas for reducing the consumption of this material by facilities. The Strategic National Stockpile (SNS) does have limited quantities of some models of N95 respirators and KDHE is developing an information collection tool to define what models of respirators are being used in facilities. From the reports of shortages that KDHE has had, those models are not stocked by either KDHE or the SNS. Click the link below to view the CDC recommendations: <http://www.cdc.gov/h1n1flu/guidance/ill-hcp.htm>.

Community Mitigation Report

*presented by Mary A. Murphy
Child Care Licensing and Registration Program
Bureau of Child Care and Health Facilities, KDHE*



- A member of the Community Mitigation Team presented information on H1N1 to the Kansas Early Childhood Comprehensive System (KECCS) stakeholders in Salina on Oct. 16. A similar presentation was made in Topeka on Oct. 22 to the Social and Rehabilitation Services (SRS) Child Care Advisory Group. Both groups are made up of state partners, early childhood advocates and child care providers.
- An article was submitted to the United School Administrators (USA) for inclusion in an upcoming newsletter. As a reminder, there are a number of helpful resources and related links for individuals, families, and specific target groups available on the KDHE H1N1 Website. The information is updated regularly. Recent additions include:
 - ◊ H1N1 Flu: A Guide for Community and Faith-based Organizations
 - ◊ Guidance for Group-Residential Programs
 - ◊ Guidance for Child Placing Agencies
 Please continue to monitor this Website for the most current information by clicking on the H1N1 One Bad Bug logo above.

Conference Call Information

Every Fri. KDHE sponsors a conference call on H1N1 for LHD and community partners. The call is scheduled for Oct. 30, 10 - 11:30 a.m. The new conference call number is **(866) 725-4463**, code is **33278134**.

A recording of the Fri., Oct. 23, H1N1 update conference call is now available. To access the recording and playback by phone, please follow these instructions:

1. Dial (800) 642-1687
2. Enter the conference ID for the call, 33278132

If you have questions concerning this Fri.'s call, please contact Mindee Reece, Director, Bureau of Public Health Preparedness, KDHE, at (785) 296-0201.

Resources

[Previous Issues of H1N1 Public Health Connections](#)

[Public Health Connections](#)

[KSDE Website](#)

[CDC Website](#)

[ASTHO H1N1 Daily Update](#)

[Index of KDHE Publications](#)

[Flu.gov](#)

[KDHE Website](#)