



PUBLIC HEALTH CONNECTIONS

H1N1- WEEKLY EDITION



NOVEMBER 9, 2009 - VOLUME 15

H1N1 INFLUENZA PARTNER CONFERENCE CALL FROM FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 6, 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.

Deputy Director of Health Report

*presented by Richard Morrissey, Deputy Director
Division of Health, KDHE*



The very good news is that the H1N1 vaccine supply really is increasing! Kansas was allocated just over 115,000 doses the week of Nov. 2, which is actually a little more than was projected.

In light of the increasing vaccine supply, when will local health departments need additional vaccinators? KDHE is trying to gauge demand for vaccinators as one of the triggers for recommending the declaration of a disaster emergency. If local health departments are planning clinics and think that you will need to recruit additional vaccinators, please send KDHE an e-mail at H1N1fluinfo@kdheks.gov.

Dr. Thomas R. Frieden, Director, Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), sent a letter to all state and local health officers, reinforcing the importance of the continuing efforts to focus on the science-based priority groups recommended by the Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices. Click the Health and Human Services logo to view this letter.



Dr. Jason Eberhart-Phillips, State Health Officer, asked that KDHE remind everyone again about making sure that health departments are reaching out to children with underlying neurologic conditions who are at high risk for H1N1. Please work with pediatricians and other health care providers to assure that these children are vaccinated.

Finally, KDHE wants to note that the state is receiving surge capacity assistance from two highly qualified CDC public health professionals. Jimmy Keller, an experienced public health advisor stationed with the Florida State Health Department, arrived Mon. Nov. 2, and is hard at work assisting staff in the KDHE operations center. Dr. Joseph Prejean, an epidemiologist with the CDC HIV/AIDS program, arrived Mon., Nov. 9, to reinforce the Epidemiology and Surveillance staff. KDHE wishes to thank both of these gentlemen and CDC for their assistance.

EPIDEMIOLOGY/SURVEILLANCE

Epidemiology and Surveillance Update

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

The Epidemiology and Surveillance update during the Fri., Nov. 6 phone call included:

- Confirmed pandemic H1N1 influenza A deaths in Kansas during the week of Nov. 2;
 - Specifics on enhanced surveillance of pregnant / postpartum women hospitalized in intensive care units, or who die due to influenza;
 - Johns Hopkins University study on influenza vaccine; and
 - Epidemiology and surveillance weekly report data.
- Click the EPI logo to view the full report.



H1N1 Public Information Officer Briefing Notes

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

This week KDHE held a screening of the H1N1 episode of *Sid the Science Kid*, at Whitson Elementary School in Topeka. Governor Mark Parkinson and Dr. Jason Eberhart-Phillips met with students in kindergarten, first grade and second grade to watch the PBS show, which talked about the H1N1 vaccine and how to prevent the spread of the flu. KDHE joined with the Governor's Office, the Shawnee County Health Agency, KTWU and Whitson Elementary to hold the event.

Thank you to everyone for providing information for the H1N1 vaccine clinic locator. During the week of Nov. 2, a new vaccine locator Website was launched which enables KDHE to post submitted clinic information much quicker. Please continue to submit vaccination information by clicking on the Vaccination Survey button below. Any questions regarding information posted to the H1N1 vaccine locator should be sent to H1N1ClinicLocator@kdheks.gov.



Getting A Shot: You Can Do It!

Let Sid the Science Kid assist you in explaining why your child or students need a vaccination. Click on the logo to view the video.



PLANNING UPDATE

Vaccination Campaign Report

presented by Sue Bowden, Director Immunization Program BDCP, KDHE



The Kansas Immunization Program (KIP), H1N1 Vaccination Campaign Report for Fri., Nov. 6 includes the following information. Please click the image on the left to view the full report.

•Vaccine Target Groups, and Recommendations - the ACIP and KDHE recommend

that the following subset of the initial target groups are **high priority** for vaccination **until vaccine availability increases**:

- a Pregnant women
- b Persons who live with or provide care for infants less than 6 months of age (parents, siblings and daycare providers, etc.)
- c Healthcare and emergency medical services personnel who have direct contact with patients or infectious material
- d Children 6 months through 4 years of age
- e Children and adolescents 5-18 years of age who have medical conditions that put them at higher risk for influenza-related complications, click the image for information on "Children with Developmental Disabilities, and Chronic Medical Conditions."



See the KIP report for the five expanded target groups and applicable vaccine to administer.

- Vaccine Distribution updates on the Kansas plan for H1N1 provider enrollment and vaccine distribution; local health department weekly H1N1 vaccine allocation amount; instructions on placing orders due to Veteran's Day, Nov. 11; manufacturer specifics on vaccine returns; and ancillary supply kit details.
- Vaccine Providers -
 - a CDC has stated that every provider administering vaccine should sign a provider agreement whether they get the vaccine directly from the distributor through an approved order, as a vaccine transfer from the local health department, or from a parent organization such as a hospital.
 - b Please enroll Vaccine for Children (VFC) providers in your area and approve vaccine orders as soon as possible since they can help access children with underlying medical conditions. If you do not know who the VFC providers are in your area, please contact Erica Hutton at ehutton@kdheks.gov.
- Vaccine Administration, Recommendations and Documentation includes - dosing of children 9 years and younger; pneumococcal polysaccharide vaccine information and updated CDC-related documents; CRA reported doses administered; revisions to the Influenza Vaccination Record card; screening questionnaires for both live attenuated influenza vaccine (LAIV) and inactivated influenza vaccination documents.

Fundamentals of Influenza Vaccine Administration, Storage, and Handling Webinar

by Dr. Bill Atkinson

National Immunization Program, CDC



This Webinar is scheduled for Fri., Nov. 13, 2009 - 11 a.m. CT. Intended audience is state and local health planners, and health care providers administering H1N1 Vaccine.

Please log in early to avoid missing any of the conference. To participate, dial in

for audio and go to the Website below for visuals.

◇ Audio Bridge Line: 888-322-1985

◇ Pass code: 261-2353

◇ Please note, there are a limited number of audio bridge lines for the Webinar, so if possible, please plan to participate as a group at your location.

Additional topics to be discussed include the proper techniques to handle needles and syringes provided in the 2009 H1N1 ancillary supply kits.



Participants can join by clicking the Webinar image above. To check your browser for compatibility click the Explorer logo.

Local health departments are encouraged to host the Webinar in a common location for program staff and provider partners to participate. The Webinar will also be recorded and available on the CDC Website for future viewing in a few days.

Saving Luke

Click on the image to view Scott Pelley's 60 Minutes report on the, H1N1 Influenza A Virus. The report implies that the virus is increasingly targeting young, healthy people. It also discusses how government officials plan to fight the flu pandemic.



Conference Call Information

Every Fri. KDHE sponsors a conference call on H1N1 for LHD and community partners. The call is scheduled for, 10 - 11:30 a.m. on Nov. 13. The new conference call number is **(866) 725-4463** and the code is **33278136**.

A recording of the Fri., Nov. 6, 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, 33278135

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

OPERATION UPDATES

Community Mitigation Team Highlights

presented by Karl V. Milhon, Director, Policy and Planning Section BDCP, KDHE

The National Association of County and City Health Officials (NACCHO) is



conducting weekly H1N1 sentinel network surveys to better understand the impact of H1N1 on local health departments and the jurisdictions they serve. Summary information from the survey will be shared with CDC and other policymakers to help guide decisions; results from the weekly survey will also serve as an additional mechanism to compile best practices on H1N1.

The intent of the weekly survey is for local health departments in NACCHO's Sentinel Network to provide information about non-pharmaceutical and other interventions related to the H1N1 influenza pandemic. The survey is sent out every Tues. and requests information about situational awareness and interventions conducted from Sun. through Sat. of the previous week.

The initiative includes two survey tools. The first, available in its entirety [here](#), includes questions on the following topics: situational awareness of influenza like illness (ILI) outbreaks, closures, and re-openings; recommended ILI-related non-pharmaceutical interventions (NPI); health outcomes; impact of ILI on health care facilities; and H1N1 vaccine. The second survey tool, available [here](#), focuses on H1N1 vaccination activities, vaccine availability, communication strategies and CDC H1N1 calls with NACCHO members.

There are currently 137 health departments participating in the sentinel network, which is six more sites compared to Oct. 9th, when NACCHO distributed demographic information about the network. At that time, there were 131 health departments representing 36 states. The Association of State and Territorial Health Officials (ASTHO) will share the complete listing once it is available.



ASTHO is working with NACCHO to receive updates and results from the weekly surveys and more information will be included in the ASTHO 'Daily H1N1 Updates' as it becomes available. Please email any questions to infocenter@astho.org.

Other mitigation news includes links to public information material from the American Red Cross that is available for downloading including "[Preparing for an H1N1 Pandemic: Coping and Emotional Well-being](#)" and "[Preparing for an H1N1 Pandemic - Family Preparedness](#)."

Lastly, the guidance document, "CDC Interim Guidance for Workers who are Employed at Commercial Swine Farms: Preventing the Spread of Influenza A Viruses, Including the 2009 H1N1 Virus," was provided by KDHE to Kansas



agencies that have regulatory or business relationships with swine farms in Kansas. Click the CDC logo to view the guidance document.

Antiviral Medication and Personal Protective Equipment Briefing

presented by Michael McNulty, Operations Director Bureau for Public Health Preparedness (BPHP), KDHE

Significant progress is being made in registering facilities for the Kansas Antiviral Dispensing Program. As of Thurs., Nov. 5, contracts have been signed by 22 safety net clinics, 38 hospitals, and 172 retail pharmacies. KDHE is now working to have other interested facilities sign contracts and enroll in the Kansas Countermeasure Response Administration (KS-CRA) system. Facilities are submitting completed contracts and CRA user agreements to Sonia Jordan at BPHP. KDHE is currently planning CRA training for antiviral sites, which will be conducted on or before Fri., Nov. 13. An initial distribution of Tamiflu 75 mg formulations will be shipped to CRA-registered pharmacies beginning on Fri., Nov. 13. This initial distribution will be followed up by a redistribution campaign of the antiviral medications distributed by KDHE in Apr. KDHE will be seeking the assistance of local health departments and other facilities where antivirals are being stored in those redistribution efforts. This assistance will likely be in the form of transportation of material from current storage sites to the newly recruited participating facilities for dispensing.



KDHE recently asked hospitals to report their preferred models, availability, and rate of consumption of N95 respirators. This was in an effort to determine levels of need within facilities for N95 supplies. KDHE would like to remind facilities to follow current CDC guidance on conservation of respirators as part of an overall hierarchy of controls to prevent influenza transmission. Additionally, hospital preparedness regions have varied levels of N95 stockpiles that need to be accessed and depleted prior to requests for Strategic National Stockpile (SNS) supplies. KDHE is finalizing a respirator and mask protocol to be used by facilities when ordering from the state. It should be noted that KDHE has limited model numbers of respirators available and may not be able to fill all requests being made.

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](#)