

BLASTFAX

Update Regarding Novel H1N1 Influenza Vaccine Provision in Georgia

Access to Novel H1N1 Influenza Vaccine - Providers interested in administering the Novel H1N1 Influenza Vaccine should contact their local Public Health District Office. A listing of H1N1 Public Health District Contacts (as of this writing) may be found at: <http://www.gaaap.org/H1N1/DistrictContactList.pdf>. If you are unsure in which public health district your practice is located, a map of the public health districts and the counties within each district may be found at: <http://www.gaaap.org/H1N1/districtmap.pdf>. (This download will take a few seconds).

Vaccine Availability - Based on current estimates, which are subject to change, vaccine availability has been calculated using national estimates of Georgia's population. Georgia could potentially receive two million doses by the end of October 2009. Bi-weekly shipments may begin in November 2009. Keep in mind that anticipated shipping dates and quantities to be available change periodically, so this will most likely change as well. Initial shipments are expected to be 50% multidose vials, 30% pre-filled syringes, and 20% LAIV. No thimerosal-free vaccine for children under 3 is expected until the end of October, and even then, quantity is expected to be very limited.

What prospective providers need to know;

- Minimum order per shipment is 100 doses. Providers serving less than 50 clients should work with local health departments to provide services to their population(s).
- Vaccine shipments will include supplies such as syringes, alcohol swabs, etc. (gloves still under discussion).
- Providers will be responsible to print and copy H1N1 Vaccine Information Statements (VIS), which will be available online.
- Providers are required to report aggregate doses administered data each Monday (additional guidance forthcoming). Each dose administered must also be entered into GRITS via direct entry or an interface. Training and support is available from the GRITS Program.
- The state Immunization Program will send a Provider Agreement in response to the Registration Form available from local Health Districts and online. Once the signed agreement is received, an Immunization Program Consultant (IPC) will schedule an in- person site visit. The purpose of this visit is to ensure adequate storage and handling equipment and conduct GRITS training, if necessary.
- Once the IPC notifies the Immunization Program that the visit is complete, the provider will be ready to receive vaccine.
- Major insurance companies are expected to reimburse for vaccine administration
- As of now, Medicare will reimburse an administration fee equal to seasonal influenza
- Non-Public Health sites may charge a cash administration fee for the uninsured population (additional information forthcoming)
- Public Health sites may not turn away an individual who is unable to pay an administration fee.

For questions or concerns regarding this blastfax or any other immunization information, please contact the Chapter's Immunization Coordinator, Mike Chaney at (404) 881-5094 or mchaney@gaaap.org.