

Blastfax

H1N1 Influenza Vaccine Administration Restrictions Lifted

Historically, demand for seasonal flu vaccine has diminished greatly following the Thanksgiving holidays. The Georgia Immunization Program is seeing evidence via calls to the H1N1 Call Center (888-4161-4636) and emails to the Program that demand for the vaccine is decreasing among the priority groups. Some providers have asked that their allocations be reduced or to have the Program pick up vaccine that will not be used. However, demand remains high among those outside of the 5 priority populations, particularly those who are age 65 and older. Supply is also beginning to stabilize in comparison with demand. As of today, every provider for whom a signed provider agreement has been received will have either received vaccine via transfer, redistribution, or direct shipment or has an order placed in the system for delivery this week.

Given these conditions, restrictions on the use of H1N1 influenza vaccine are being lifted. Effective immediately, providers may offer the age-appropriate formulation of 2009 H1N1 influenza vaccine to anyone age 6 months and older upon request. However, promotion efforts should still be to target those who are at highest risk, i.e., those who are in the 5 priority populations. Although the restrictions have been lifted, vaccine is still being allocated in limited quantities from CDC, and orders are being placed as the vaccine becomes available to the state. It is possible that you may run out before you receive an additional shipment. Your patience is appreciated.

2010 EPIC Immunization Education

Is your staff up-to-date on the 2010 immunization recommendations? If not, schedule an EPIC Program now! The EPIC Program curriculum has been updated for 2010 and includes interactive quizzes for audience participation. EPIC offers six programs: Childhood, Adult, Combination, and an “update” program for each. The “update” programs cover all vaccine-preventable diseases and the corresponding recommendations and focuses on the changes that have occurred in the past two years. This program is ideal if you’ve had an EPIC Program in the last two years and have had no staff turnover. The FREE programs, offer CME for physicians, contact hours for nurses, and a resource box containing valuable resources for your office.

To request an EPIC program, contact Shanrita McClain, Program Coordinator at 404-881-5054 or smcclain@gaaap.org.

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.