STATE OF NEW YORK
DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH

Corning Tower The Governor Nelson A. Rockefeller Empire State Plaza Albany, New York 12237

Richard F. Daines, M.D.
Commissioner

James W. Clyne, Jr.
Executive Deputy Commissioner

September 17, 2009

Dear Hospital Administrator:

This letter provides information about how hospitals and affiliated sites outside of New York City can pre-register for novel influenza A (H1N1) monovalent vaccine to be administered to patients and staff*.

The novel H1N1 influenza virus, in conjunction with regular seasonal influenza viruses, has the potential to cause significant illness, hospitalizations and deaths this flu season starting this fall. Influenza vaccination is the most effective method to prevent influenza infection. A novel influenza A (H1N1) monovalent vaccine is expected to be available by mid-October 2009 and perhaps earlier. In cooperation with the federal government and local health departments, the New York State Department of Health (NYSDOH) will make the monovalent vaccine available to health care providers and health care facilities in New York State (outside New York City). This undertaking will require the active participation of a wide range of immunization providers, but hospitals will play a key role in delivering influenza vaccine to their targeted staff and patients.

The following populations are recommended by CDC to receive novel influenza A (H1N1) monovalent vaccine as soon as possible:

- Pregnant women
- Household contacts and caregivers for children younger than 6 months of age
- Healthcare and emergency medical services personnel
- All people from 6 months through 24 years of age
- Persons aged 25 through 64 years who have health conditions associated with higher risk of medical complications from influenza

The full recommendations are available in the Morbidity and Mortality Weekly Report, August 28, 2009/58 at http://www.cdc.gov/mmwr/preview/mmwrhtml/rr5810a1.htm.

Both the vaccine and the supplies required to administer the vaccine will be provided by the Federal government at no charge. Reimbursement for vaccine administration is likely to be covered by most private health insurers and will be covered by public health insurance (Medicaid/Medicare) plans.

Issues regarding the liability and costs associated with administering the H1N1 influenza monovalent vaccine are being addressed. The United States Department of Health and Human Services has issued a Public Readiness and Emergency Preparedness "PREP" Act declaration for novel H1N1 influenza countermeasures. This declaration provides liability protections to providers of H1N1 influenza vaccine.

The allocation and distribution of the vaccine in New York State (outside New York City) will be managed by the NYSDOH in coordination with county health departments. In order to receive novel H1N1 influenza monovalent vaccine, hospitals must pre-register with NYSDOH to receive vaccine for staff, inpatients and each affiliated practice. The information you provide will assist in allocating H1N1

**To obtain H1N1 vaccine in New York City, contact the NYC Department of Health and Mental Hygiene at http://www.nyc.gov/html/doh/html/cir/a03c.html or call 212-676-2323.*

vaccine throughout the State, taking into consideration the targeted population groups to receive the H1N1 vaccine.

Pre-registration: Each hospital and affiliated outpatient practice site interested in receiving novel H1N1 influenza monovalent vaccine must pre-register at https://hcsteamwork1.health.state.ny.us/pub/top.html.

- This pre-registration process is designed for you to express interest only and does not obligate you to receive/administer vaccine nor does it guarantee you will receive vaccine if supplies are limited.

Requirements for receipt of vaccine:

- In order to receive novel H1N1 influenza monovalent vaccine, one person who can obligate the entire hospital system must sign a federally-mandated Provider Agreement agreeing to appropriately store and handle the vaccine, to give vaccines only to the CDC targeted groups, and to report vaccine usage (see next bullet).
- There is a federal requirement that providers of vaccine to adults (age 19 years and older) report at a minimum, vaccine doses administered by age group on a weekly basis. NYSDOH will set up a mechanism for this reporting.
- New York State Law requires that all vaccinations of pediatric patients (less than 19 years of age) be entered into the New York State Immunization Information System (NYSIIS), the state's immunization registry. As hospital inpatient and outpatient services may provide vaccine to those 18 years and younger, they will be required to enter vaccines administered for those patients into NYSIIS.

Once your pre-registration is received and the remaining details of the vaccination campaign have been finalized, you will be contacted by the vaccine program to sign the federal Provider Agreement and instructed how to order vaccine.

Those outpatient practices that are affiliated with a hospital and receive their pharmaceuticals through that hospital will still need to register their site. This will enable us to plan for vaccination on the county level and know who is available to vaccinate in each community. Shipping of vaccine will still occur through the usual distribution channels that hospitals provide.

Reporting to the NYS Immunization Information System (NYSIIS).

All hospitals and practices that are interested in receiving novel H1N1 influenza monovalent vaccine for use in their 18 year old and younger patients must establish a NYSDOH Health Commerce System (HCS) account and establish access to NYSIIS, also known as the immunization registry (see attached fact sheet). Establishing a HCS account can be done through the pre-registration link above.

NYSIIS, the state immunization registry, provides a number of advantages for providers of H1N1 monovalent vaccine: 1) automatically generates the federally mandated weekly vaccine usage reports, 2) monitors vaccine inventory to enable prompt reordering, 3) generates reminder lists and letters for the second influenza vaccine dose, if required, 4) provides a legal record of the vaccination, 5) enables correct ascertainment of prior influenza vaccine history if patients receive some influenza vaccine doses (seasonal and/or monovalent H1N1) at other provider sites, and 6) enables NYSDOH to more closely monitor possible vaccine adverse events. In addition, 47 electronic health record/billing vendors are approved to automatically upload immunization information into NYSIIS. The website above provides a link to a brief on-line orientation to NYSIIS and details on how to enroll in the system.

Your participation in the H1N1 influenza monovalent vaccine campaign is essential to ensuring that New Yorkers receive the most effective protection against H1N1 influenza. For more information on the novel H1N1 influenza vaccine, please go to the NYSDOH website at: http://www.health.state.ny.us/diseases/communicable/influenza/h1n1/ or the Centers for Disease Control

and Prevention's (CDC) website at: http://www.cdc.gov/h1n1flu/. If you have any further questions, please contact the NYSDOH H1N1 hotline at 1-800-808-1987.

Sincerely,

Richard M. Cook
Deputy Commissioner
Office of Health Systems Management

The New York State Immunization Information System (NYSIIS)

and H1N1 Vaccine

What is NYSIIS?
The New York State Immunization Information System (NYSIIS) is a confidential, secure, web-based system that maintains one consolidated immunization record for persons of all ages in New York State (outside of New York City). Public Health Law 2168 mandates health care providers report information on vaccinations administered to all persons less than 19 years of age. New York State Department of Health is working to eliminate the requirement for separate written consent for individuals 19 years of age and older.

As of September 2009, NYSIIS contains more than 2.4 million patient records and nearly 28 million immunizations. There are more than 6,800 individual users from 2,200 different health care provider organizations and 1,012 schools across the state.

New York State is not alone in this endeavor. As a nation, we are targeting the Healthy People 2010 goal of having 95% of children less than six years of age with two or more immunizations in an immunization information system. NYS is making great strides toward this goal. We are at 65.7% as of September 2009 – nearly double were we were one year ago.

Why Do We Need NYSIIS?
For the H1N1 campaign, NYSIIS will be essential for information tracking. The system will allow users to track vaccine inventory and usage on a daily and weekly basis, as required by the Federal government; will provide a key source of information on possible adverse events; will facilitate the generation of reminders for the likely second H1N1 dose by medical practices; will allow review of practice coverage rates, and will serve as a record of the immunization. In addition, by consolidating vaccinations from multiple visits and possible multiple providers into one reliable record, time and paperwork are reduced and accurate immunization histories for providers, patients, schools, camps, day-care centers and colleges will be available.

Will I need to participate in NYSIIS to receive H1N1 vaccine?
Providers who administer any immunization to persons less than 19 years of age are required by state law to report to NYSIIS. This includes the 2009 influenza A (H1N1) monovalent vaccine. Providers are also strongly encouraged to use NYSIIS to track immunization information for persons 19 years of age and older.

While many providers that immunize children already participate in NYSIIS, most providers that care for adult patients are not yet participating. NYSDOH will provide training, education and technological support to assist new providers.

continued

How Do I Get Access to NYSIIS?
NYSIIS is accessed via the Health Commerce System (HCS), designed for the electronic exchange of health related data and information between health care providers and NYSDOH. Licensed health care professionals can apply for an HCS account at: https://hcsteamwork1.health.state.ny.us/pub/top.html

Once an HCS account has been established, providers must complete NYSIIS training, which authorizes access to NYSIIS. These training opportunities can be found at: https://commerce.health.state.ny.us/hpn/bcdc/immunization/training_info.html.

How Do I Report Immunizations?
H1N1 immunizations can be reported using direct on-line data entry or by batch file transfer from an electronic health record or billing system. The following 47 systems are already approved to submit data to NYSIIS:

ACME
ADS (Medex Premiere) (NEIC)
Allscripts - MYSIS
CDS (Contemporary Data Services)
Cerner System
CMI Medical Systems
EasyBilling
Ecast
Eclinical Works
Eclipsys
EncounterPro
EPIC
EZImmune
GE Healthcare -Centricity
Hypocrates
Iatric
McKesson
MD Everywhere
MDOffice
Medallies (working with NextGen)
Medcomp
MedData
Medent (Community Computer/Health Sys Tech)
Medfx
Medical Communication Systems
Medical Manager
Medisoft/Medinotes
Meditech
MicroMD
Mitchell McCormick
NextGen
Office Practicum
PerfectCare
Physician's Computer Company
Physicians Solution
PMP
PractiCare
Practice Made Perfect
Practice Partner
Priority Management Group
Pyramid Partner
Quicksilver Computers
Sage (Medical Manager)
SoapWare
Synamed
Virtual Officeware
Welligent

Where Can I Get More Information?
Contact NYSIIS Program staff at (518) 473-2839 or nysiis@health.state.ny.us for additional information.