

# EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS BUREAU FLU ADVISORY

September 11, 2009

## VOLUNTEER UPDATE

### Update on Massachusetts



Last night, September 10<sup>th</sup> a special live half-hour program, "Flu Facts: What You Need to Know", aired on WCVB-TV, Channel 5. The program provided the latest information on what to expect this flu season from public health and medical experts including DPH Medical Director, Lauren Smith, MD.

Dr. Smith also appears in the [first](#) of a series of DPH public service announcements which will be debuting over the course of the next couple of months. DPH plans to continue to communicate "Flu Facts" information using television, radio, newspaper, and public transportation.

As of September 9, 2009, 1,400 confirmed cases of H1N1 have been reported throughout Massachusetts. As of September 3, there have been 9,079 hospitalized cases of H1N1 nationally, with 593 deaths.

Please go to the Department of Public Health's website at [www.mass.gov/flu](http://www.mass.gov/flu) to receive the most up to date information and resources.

### H1N1 Vaccine Registration

The state Department of Public Health (DPH) has launched its [online registration](#) for H1N1 vaccine. This fall, the federal government will provide states with H1N1 vaccine and supplies (needles, syringes, sharps containers, alcohol swabs, H1N1 immunization cards) at no cost. DPH is responsible for directing the vaccine and supplies in Massachusetts. Providers (including private providers, hospitals, local health departments, regional public health coalitions, visiting nurses associations, clinics, pharmacists and commercial community vaccinators) wishing to

receive and administer H1N1 vaccine must register with the DPH. The deadline for registering is October 9, 2009.

For [more information](#) please visit

<http://www.mass.gov/dph/h1n1registration>.

**Note:** Providers already enrolled in the DPH Immunization Program receiving state-supplied seasonal influenza and/or other vaccines must also register through this system if they are interested in receiving H1N1 vaccine.

### **Statewide H1N1 Conference**

On September 30, DPH will host the Massachusetts Statewide Conference on H1N1 Influenza Response for health care, public health, school and community leaders at the DCU Center in Worcester. The conference will present the latest situation update regarding the flu in Massachusetts, and elsewhere, and what the outlook is for the coming months, as well as the latest information on guidance and planning for flu vaccination, both seasonal and H1N1. Due to the high demand and limited number of seats, the conference is currently full. DPH is hoping to provide a webcast for those that cannot attend in person. More details will follow if and when this option becomes available.

### **CDC Update**

This week the CDC continued to post a number of new and updated resources on its website,

<http://www.cdc.gov/h1n1flu/>.

Included are:

H1N1 Flu (Swine Flu): Resources for State and Local Health Officials

<http://www.cdc.gov/h1n1flu/statelocal/>

Preparing for the Flu: A Communication Toolkit for Child Care and Early Childhood Programs

<http://www.cdc.gov/h1n1flu/childcare/toolkit/>

Updated Interim Recommendations for the Use of Antiviral Medications in the Treatment and Prevention of Influenza for the 2009-2010 Season

<http://www.cdc.gov/h1n1flu/recommendations.htm>

Questions & Answers: Revised Recommendations for the Use of Influenza Antiviral Drugs

<http://www.cdc.gov/h1n1flu/antiviral.htm>

Interim Guidance for State and Local Health Departments for Reporting Influenza-Associated Hospitalizations and Deaths for the 2009-2010 Season

<http://www.cdc.gov/H1N1flu/hospitalreporting.htm>

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