

To: Suburban Cook County Emergency Response Partners: First Responders, Resource Hospitals, EMA Officials, and SCC State-Certified Local Health Departments

**From: Cook County Department of Public Health (CCDPH) &
Cook County Department of Homeland Security & Emergency Management (CCDHSEM)**

The purpose of this document is to provide CCDPH and CCDHSEM partners with the status of our ongoing response planning for H1N1 influenza pandemic. The information is as current as the date and time listed above.

SITUATIONAL UPDATE

- ***Influenza:*** Influenza-like illness (ILI) is widespread. 2009 H1N1 influenza A appears to be the predominant respiratory virus circulating at this time. Please visit the CCDPH website at www.cookcountypublichealth.org to obtain the most recent surveillance report, which will be updated on a weekly basis.
- ***2009 H1N1 Vaccine:*** The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) is providing 2009 H1N1 vaccine beginning in October. Distribution is being coordinated with the Illinois Department of Public Health. CCDPH expects to receive an initial shipment in the immediate future and will notify you when our vaccination efforts will begin. In addition to public health departments, vaccine will be delivered to private medical providers, federally qualified health centers and hospitals. It is anticipated that some providers will have vaccine available in the very near future.
- ***Public Health Emergency Declaration.*** It is expected that the State will formally declare a public health emergency in the near future in order to facilitate response efforts state-wide. This will likely result in the issuance of proclamations granting temporary modifications to the scopes of practice of licensed professionals working under the direction of the IDPH/IEMA or of local public health authorities/accredited local emergency management agencies to carry out H1N1 vaccination efforts.

CURRENT PLANNING ACTIVITIES:

- ***(2009 H1N1) Vaccination Campaign:*** CCDPH has a flexible plan that may change depending on vaccine availability, staffing, community needs, and disease severity. Residents of suburban Cook County who fall into a CDC vaccine priority group will be able to get the 2009 H1N1 vaccine from sources such as private providers, FQHCs, pharmacies, and CCDPH and County Health and Hospital System regional vaccination clinics. In coordination with CCDHSEM, we are engaged in planning to help facilitate distribution of vaccine to providers and to encourage private providers to accept new patients for vaccination-only services. Additional programs may be added as events unfold. Please view and use the Flu Vaccine Flyer which will be posted on the CCDPH website by Friday, October 23rd.
- ***CCDPH School-Located Vaccination Initiative:*** Children and young people aged six months to 24 years are one of the groups identified by the CDC as having been most affected by the 2009 H1N1 virus. (Other priority groups include pregnant women, caregivers of babies younger than 6 months and persons with chronic medical conditions increasing their risk of complications/severe illness.) Since vaccination is the best way to protect against this potentially serious virus, CCDPH is partnering with health providers and provider groups, health professions schools, local government units, medical reserve corps programs and the American Red Cross to carry out a voluntary school-located vaccination program in suburban Cook County. While CCDPH will provide the 2009 H1N1 vaccine this Fall/Winter to students at schools in suburban Cook County that choose to participate in this initiative, CCDPH recommends that **children get vaccinated as soon as possible.**



**Cook County
Department of Public Health
Cook County Health and Hospitals System**



- **Health Professionals are needed for CCDPH's vaccination programs:** CCDPH will provide direction, clinical supervision and training. Please consider:
 - (1) Promoting the Cook County Medical Reserve Corps (CCMRC). In addition to requesting existing MRC programs to dually enroll their volunteers in CCMRC for a coordinated volunteer response, CCDPH is signing up volunteers directly on the CCDPH website. Volunteers may also call 708-492-2820 to obtain a CCMRC Volunteer Packet.
 - (2) Municipalities may assign their employed health professionals (nurses, EMTs) to assist us by signing a Memorandum of Agreement (available on the CCDPH website).
 - (3) Provider groups interested in helping with the vaccination efforts should call the Flu Hotline at 708-492-2828.

- **Emergency Medical Services (EMS) Personnel:** A conference call was recently held with Resource Hospitals and EMS personnel serving suburban Cook County. Please follow up with your respective Resource Hospital to learn whether they will provide the 2009 H1N1 vaccine to EMS personnel. If not, 2009 H1N1 vaccine will be available from private providers or at a CCDPH regional vaccine clinic (details provided in Flu Vaccine Flyer to be posted on the CCDPH website by Friday, October 23rd).

- **Updated Materials:** The CCDPH website is updated regularly. Please visit for updated infection control guidance and health materials. Recently posted materials include:
 - *Interim Guidance for Facemask and Respirator Use to Reduce Spread of 2009 H1N1 Flu in Community Settings*
 - *Guidance for Preventing Flu in the Workplace*
 - *Interim Guidance for Suburban Cook County Law Enforcement (when managing or transporting a detainee)*
 - *Seasonal and H1N1 Symptom Card*

- **Information:** Please continue to contact us or refer anyone with questions to the CCDPH website at www.cookcountypublichealth.org, the general e-mail at BeAware@ccdph.net or Flu (2009 H1N1) hotline at 708-492-2828.

Thank you for your continued support. CCDPH and CCDHSEM sincerely appreciate the outstanding programs and support of our valued partners.

