



Public Health
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Region IV Public Health
Clark, Cowlitz, Skamania, Wahkiakum counties
and Cowlitz Tribe

Health Update

Please deliver a copy of the accompanying alert to each provider in your organization.

Thank you

Questions regarding this alert may be directed to the office of:

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Please Distribute

Categories of Health Alert messages:

Health Alert: conveys the highest level of importance; warrants immediate action or attention.

Health Advisory: provides important information for specific incident for situation; may not require immediate action.

Health Update: provides updated information regarding an incident or situation; no immediate action necessary.



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HEALTH UPDATE

January 15, 2010

National Influenza Vaccination Week highlights importance of ongoing vaccination

Summary

National Influenza Vaccination Week (January 10-16) is an occasion to remind providers to continue vaccinating high risk persons with remaining supplies of seasonal vaccine and to expand 2009 H1N1 vaccination to anyone who wants it, regardless of age. Because supply and availability of the 2009 H1N1 vaccine have increased dramatically, CDC is now encouraging people who have been patiently waiting to receive the 2009 H1N1 vaccine to get vaccinated as well as continuing to encourage unvaccinated people in priority groups to get vaccinated. Influenza is unpredictable, but influenza is expected to continue for months, caused by either 2009 H1N1 viruses or regular seasonal influenza viruses.

As of December 10, 2009, more than 110 million doses of seasonal influenza vaccine had been distributed. Since then, it is likely that the total estimated amount of 114 million doses of seasonal influenza vaccine have been distributed. Demand for seasonal influenza vaccine has been very high this season. As a result, supplies of seasonal vaccine are now limited. Providers are encouraged to continue administering remaining supplies of seasonal vaccine.

As of early January, 2010, approximately 136 million doses of 2009 H1N1 vaccine have been allocated and 111 million doses have been shipped. Supplies of 2009 H1N1 vaccine available to be administered are ample. In Clark and Cowlitz counties to date, 74,565 doses of H1N1 vaccine have been administered.

As of mid-November, an estimated 47 million Americans have had 2009 H1N1 influenza, with approximately 213,000 hospitalizations and 9,820 deaths. As of early January, there have been 152 laboratory-confirmed H1N1 cases in Clark County and 29 in Cowlitz County. Six people in Clark County have died from H1N1 influenza. There is no way to accurately predict the course of influenza epidemics. Although influenza activity has declined in recent weeks, many people remain unprotected, and additional cases, hospitalizations, and deaths are expected to occur this season.

Vaccination with 2009 H1N1 vaccine continues to be particularly important for people in the initial target groups, including pregnant women; household contacts and caregivers of infants younger than six months of age; health care and emergency medical services personnel; all individuals six months through 24 years of age; and individuals 25 through 64 years of age who have medical conditions associated with higher risk of complications from influenza. It is important for unvaccinated people in these groups to take advantage of the ample vaccine supply and get vaccinated now.

Alan Melnick, MD, MPH, CPH
Region IV Health Officer