



Arkansas Department of Health

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Governor Mike Beebe

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H1N1 Vaccine Provider Pre-Registration Sign-Up

Providers interested in receiving H1N1 vaccine are encouraged to go to the ADH website (www.healthyarkansas.com) for information. The steps include:

1. Pre-registering your interest for vaccine
2. Submitting a provider agreement
3. Placing a vaccine order

You must complete all the above steps, in order to receive vaccine.

VACCINE AVAILABILITY:

I know that all of you are anxiously awaiting H1N1 vaccine. Here are the facts.

The H1N1 vaccine is slowly trickling in. We are actually going from week to week (sometimes day to day) waiting on CDC to tell us how much vaccine we can order for the week. We usually do not know until Friday. As you know, we are trying to get it to all the school children (via school clinics) as well as pregnant women. Most of our health units have some vaccine for pregnant women (have patients call first to make sure the local health units (LHUs) have vaccine) and a few of the larger OB clinics around the state have received 100 doses of vaccine. If we took the number of doses of vaccine we have received and divided it up for all the providers that have registered you would each receive too few doses to be effective, so school clinics are probably the best way to reach the masses.

As you may or may not remember, the ACIP gave us a subgroup of the priority groups in case there was a shortage of vaccine. The subgroup consisted of the following:

- pregnant women,
- persons who live with or provide care for infants aged <6 months (e.g., parents, siblings, and daycare providers),
- health-care and emergency medical services personnel who have direct contact with patients or infectious material,
- children aged 6 months-4 years, and
- children and adolescents aged 5-18 years who have medical conditions that put them at higher risk for influenza-related complications.

We do not have enough vaccine to target all of these groups yet.

We will be holding our annual mass seasonal influenza clinics on October 29, 30 and 31st (see our web site for day and time for your county). We may or may not be offering H1N1 vaccine at that time. If so, it could be severely limited to a small subset of those listed above.

Allocating vaccine has been a difficult task with limited supplies. We do know that at some point in time we will have enough vaccine to send out to those of you that have signed up to give it. However, we do not know when this might occur. Even if the vaccine is not received until November or December, we need to give it out to as many providers as possible because there will most likely be a second wave of disease. Those that didn't get the flu in the first wave will probably get it with the second wave. Our local health units have also scheduled second and third mass clinics to be able to reach as many persons as possible with the vaccine, including those that need a second dose. Dates for those clinics will depend on vaccine availability.

Antivirals for patients without insurance or who can't pay

ADH has shipped over 55,000 prescriptions of 75mg Tamiflu capsules to 112 independent pharmacies, and six retail pharmacy chains, including:

1. USA Drug
2. Walgreens
3. Kroger
4. Fred's
5. Harps/Price Cutter
6. Allcare Pharmacies
7. Walmart and Sam's Club (not yet in stores)

Each participating pharmacy was shipped a minimum order (48 prescriptions) of Tamiflu 75mg capsules. This medication is available for patients now.

On Friday, October 16, 2009, ADH also shipped 12mg/ml Tamiflu oral suspension, 30mg and 45mg Tamiflu capsules, and 10mg Relenza to corporate Walgreens and Wal-Mart for distribution within their networks. Fred's Pharmacy has also agreed to host Tamiflu oral suspension, to be shipped. These chains should have varying formulations available by Monday, October 26.

The availability of State Cache Antivirals should increase over the next week. Until that time, physicians should check availability of State Cache Antivirals at the patient's pharmacy of choice. State Cache Antivirals are intended to provide access to patients that are underinsured or uninsured, and to fill gaps in commercial supply chains. Participating pharmacies are allowed to charge up to a \$10 administration fee for dispensing State Cache Antivirals, but must waive that fee if the patient is unable to afford the fee.

Questions or comments on State Cache Antiviral Drugs can be made by emailing ADH.EOCSNS@arkansas.gov.

A complete list of pharmacies can be accessed at http://www.healthysarkansas.com/swineflu_outreach.html - at the bottom of the page under antiviral drugs/availability and distribution

Triage of those <18 yrs of age – too large to put here but important enough for you to go to this web site: <http://www.cdc.gov/h1n1flu/clinicians/pdf/childalgorithm.pdf>

If you have any questions please feel free to contact Dr. Sandy Snow at 501-661-2169 or fax to 501-661-2300 or e-mail to Sandra.snow@arkansas.gov

