



Charlie Crist
Governor

Ana M. Viamonte Ros, M.D., M.P.H.
State Surgeon General

September 14, 2009

Dear Physician:

The Escambia County Health Department is working with State and Federal partners to coordinate 2009 H1N1 Influenza vaccine delivery and administration within our community. The purpose of this letter is to make you aware of the H1N1 National Vaccination Distribution Program, and to solicit your intent to provide H1N1 vaccine to your staff and patients.

Please note that recently the CDC Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices (ACIP) recommended that H1N1 (formerly known as swine) flu vaccine be made available first to the following five target groups: **pregnant women, health care workers and emergency medical responders, people who live with or care for infants under 6 months of age, children and young adults from 6 months to 24 years, and people aged 25 to 64 years with underlying medical conditions (e.g., asthma, diabetes).** Further restrictions may apply depending upon vaccine availability.

Your participation requires that you enter into an agreement with the Florida Department of Health. In addition to basic demographic information, the agreement includes information regarding adherence to ACIP recommendations, vaccine storage and handling, provision of Vaccine Information Statements (VIS), requirements for recording of information in the patient's medical record, reporting adverse events, submitting a weekly summary report of vaccine usage, agreement not to charge patients for the vaccine, and other pertinent information as well as a signature or e-signature.

The Federal Public Readiness and Emergency Preparedness (PREP) Act ensures that you and anyone in the chain of vaccine delivery will receive immunity and have (virtually) no civil liability. For more information on the PREP Act, go to:

<http://www.hhs.gov/disasters/emergency/manmadedisasters/bioterrorism/medication-vaccine-qa.html>

The vaccine is provided with its administration supplies at no cost to you or the patient. Based on the patient's health insurance coverage, you may charge a vaccine administration fee to be determined by the Federal government (Medicaid, Medicare), their private health insurance plans, or other third party payor. To initiate partnering with our private practice providers, we need to know a few facts so please fill out and fax the attached sheet as soon as possible to 850.484.5153 or email to the address below.

If you have any questions, do not hesitate to contact our Vaccine Management Unit at 850.595.6576, or email us at EscambiaCHD_Reporting@doh.state.fl.us.

Sincerely,



John J. Lanza, MD, PhD, MPH, FAAP
CHD Director - Health