



# H1N1 Provider Briefing

Date: January 27, 2010  
To: All Healthcare Providers  
From: Director of Health, David R. Gifford, MD, MPH  
Re: Information on H1N1 in Rhode Island

**Local Influenza Activity Level:** Sporadic<sup>1</sup>; H1N1 predominant circulating strain  
**Rhode Island<sup>2</sup>:** 366 hospitalized cases, 10 deaths  
**Sentinel Surveillance (% of visits due to influenza-like illness):** Rhode Island: 0.21%<sup>3</sup>, New England Region: 0.90%, Nation: 1.82%

Since the H1N1 vaccine became available this fall, 312,691 Rhode Islanders have been vaccinated against H1N1. HEALTH appreciates the continued efforts of vaccine providers in helping patients access the H1N1 vaccine this flu season. Vaccinating 187,309 more people will allow us to reach our state goal of protecting 500,000 Rhode Islanders from H1N1 by Valentine's Day. Please continue to reach out to your unvaccinated patients, including healthy adults and senior citizens, and encourage them to get vaccinated in your office.

## **Reporting H1N1 vaccine inventory and doses administered**

H1N1 vaccine providers are reminded to report weekly their physical inventory of H1N1 vaccine (i.e., the number of doses they have on hand) and the number of doses they have administered by 11:59 p.m. every Monday at <http://pandemic.health.ri.gov/h1n1/>.

## **Volunteers needed for free public vaccination clinics**

The following Rhode Island cities and towns need additional healthcare providers to assist with free public H1N1 vaccination clinics in upcoming weeks:

- East Providence (2/13): Doctor, Pharmacist
- Foster (2/13): Pharmacist
- North Providence (2/17): Pharmacist
- Providence (2/13): Doctor, Pharmacist
- Richmond (2/6): Pharmacist
- Scituate (2/20): Doctor
- Smithfield (1/30): Pharmacist
- Warren (2/6): Doctor, Pharmacist

Licensed healthcare providers and pharmacists interested in volunteering at these clinics or at other free public clinics should contact Amy Grzybowski at the Rhode Island Emergency Management Agency: (401) 462-7335 or [amy.grzybowski@us.army.mil](mailto:amy.grzybowski@us.army.mil).

## **Free public vaccination clinic uptake and schedule**

Municipalities throughout Rhode Island vaccinated 11,768 individuals against H1N1 flu at free public clinics that began January 16. Free public clinics will continue operating at various locations through mid-February. Vaccine at these clinics is only available to those who are 18 years of age and older. Individuals do not have to present identification and can attend any clinic, regardless of where they live. Over the next seven days, the following clinics will run:

<sup>1</sup> Rhode Island reported sporadic activity for the week of January 10 to 16, 2010. For details see <http://www.health.ri.gov/flu/about/surveillance/>.

<sup>2</sup> Confirmed and probable H1N1 hospitalizations and deaths since September 1, 2009

<sup>3</sup> Influenza-like illness activity reported by 21 sentinel surveillance sites from January 10 to 16, 2010

- January 30; Calcutt School (112 Washington Street, Central Falls); 10 a.m. – 2 p.m.
- January 30; Smithfield High School (90 Pleasant View Ave., Smithfield); 10 a.m. – 5:30 p.m.
- January 30; Rogers High School (15 Wikham Road, Newport); 10 a.m. – 2 p.m.

To view the complete schedule of free public clinics organized by Rhode Island municipalities, see <http://www.health.ri.gov/flu/about/freepublich1n1clinics/index.php>.

### **H1N1 school-based clinic second dose uptake**

19,129 school-aged children received H1N1 vaccine during the first two weeks of HEALTH's second round of H1N1 school-based vaccination clinics. All school-aged children who were younger than 10 years old at the time of their first doses will have the opportunity to receive their second doses of vaccine in school by February 5, 2010.

### **Resources**

- HEALTH at <http://www.health.ri.gov>;
- Archived provider briefings and regular news updates: <http://www.health.ri.gov/news/flu/>
- H1N1 Information Line (M-F 8:30am- 4:30pm) 401-222-8022
- H1N1 email address [h1n1@health.ri.gov](mailto:h1n1@health.ri.gov)
- <http://www.flu.gov>