

Date: March 17, 2010

Information Contacts:

Communicable Disease Program
H1N1 Vaccine Distribution

253 798-6410
253 798-4605

Continued Immunization for 2009 H1N1 Influenza

While influenza activity remains low in Washington State and across the United States, whether we will experience a resurgence of 2009 H1N1 influenza activity remains unknown. Influenza activity has actually increased in the past couple of weeks in some states in the Southeast. Almost all viruses subtyped continue to be 2009 H1N1. Seasonal influenza viruses have not yet caused significant activity in the United States.

There is still a large amount of 2009 H1N1 monovalent vaccine in the community—over 200,000 doses distributed in Pierce County and over 155,000 doses have been reported as having been administered to patients. Normally, clinicians are encouraged to keep vaccinating throughout the influenza season which is traditionally October 1 through April 30. At this time, there has been no official guidance from Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) as to when to cease 2009 H1N1 immunization. Several of the 2009 H1N1 vaccine lots do not expire until 2011.

Clinicians are encouraged to keep vaccinating patients who have not yet received vaccination, including pregnant women who have recently presented for obstetrical care. Unless medically contraindicated, all persons over age 6 months, regardless of health status, are eligible to receive influenza immunization. In addition children under age 10 should receive a second dose of vaccine. The second dose can be given at any time 28 days after administration of the first dose. 2009 A-H1N1 influenza is expected to circulate throughout the 2010–2011 influenza season and has been recommended by World Health Organization (WHO) and U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) as the H1N1 component of next's season trivalent influenza vaccine.

Medical providers who wish to order more H1N1 monovalent vaccine should do so soon. The last date to place a vaccine order through Tacoma-Pierce County Health Department will be April 2, 2010. We also have vaccine available to pick up at our distribution office.

Call (253) 798-4605

Free H1N1 vaccinations are available at Tacoma-Pierce County Health Department every Wednesday, 12:00 noon to 6:00 pm through March 31, 2010.

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