



PUBLIC HEALTH BYTES

Henrico Health Department's Newsletter

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Working in partnership
with the citizens of
Henrico County to create
the conditions for health.

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Pandemic Flu - ALERT PHASE WHO: 6

Novel H1N1 Situation Update

As of 25 July 2009, Virginia's Flu activity level was "Local". Nationwide, 5 states reported "Widespread" flu activity as of 18 July. The CDC weekly flu update can be found at <http://www.cdc.gov/flu/weekly/>. The worldwide flu update may be found on the World Health Organization website at <http://www.who.int/csr/disease/swineflu/updates/en/index.html>.

Novel H1N1 Fall 2009 Planning Update

Planning assumptions: 1) The Novel H1N1 influenza virus will re-emerge during the upcoming flu season and circulate along with other seasonal flu viruses (including other H1N1 viruses). 2) Seasonal flu vaccine will not protect against the Novel H1N1 strain. *However, it will be important to emphasize the seasonal flu vaccination to ensure protection against other circulating flu virus that can still cause morbidity and mortality.* 3) Novel H1N1 vaccine will be available between October and December.

Planning priorities for the Medical and Healthcare Community:

1) Update/Revise/Implement your organization/agency's Continuity of Operations Plan (COOP) for pandemic flu. A helpful guide for medical practices can be found on the CDC website: <http://www.cdc.gov/h1n1flu/10steps.htm>. 2) Sign up your medical practice with VDH to become a novel H1N1 vaccine provider (more information below). 3) Continue to be a part of the local planning process in the Emergency Support Function-8 (ESF-8) Work Group.

Planning priorities for Henrico Health Department:

1) Recruit and train MRC volunteers to staff upcoming Mass Vaccination Clinics. 2) Expand on local strategic planning through ESF-8 work group. 3) Develop strategy for possible early peak in flu season (before vaccine is available). 4) Develop Vaccination Strategy for Children & Young Adults, Pregnant Women, Healthcare workers and EMS Providers. 5) Recruit private medical practices to become H1N1 Vaccine Providers

ESF-8 Work Group

The next ESF-8 Work Group meeting will take place on Aug 13, 2009 from 8:00 am to 10:00 pm at the Henrico County Human Services Building. The topic will be H1N1 planning. Contact Mike Magner (michael.magner@vdh.virginia.gov or 501-7250) for more information.

H1N1 Vaccine Providers Needed

VDH is seeking medical practices in the private sector to be novel H1N1 vaccine providers. The vaccine (and related medical supplies) will be provided to you free-of-charge to immunize your priority group patients. For more information please see the letter from the Health Commissioner posted on www.publichealthbytes.org.

Disease Prevention and Health Promotion

Henrico Infant Mortality Prevention

Henrico County Health Department will host its 2nd Community Voice Infant Mortality Prevention Town Hall meeting on Aug 24, 2009 at 7pm at the East Henrico Health Department, Glen Echo Building, 3810 Nine Mile Road in the Fairfield District. The meeting will bring together government officials, businesses, the religious community, health care providers, MRC volunteers and other partners to build a Community Action Team (CAT) for the 2009-2010 Saving Babies Campaign. The general public is invited to attend. To RSVP, please contact Augustine Doe at 4643 or HenricoMRC@vdh.virginia.gov by August 17, 2009.

Seasonal Flu Vaccine:

Seasonal Flu Vaccine could be available as early as August this year. CDC is recommending that seasonal flu vaccination efforts begin as soon as the vaccination is ready in August, and prior to the release of the novel H1N1 vaccine.

Back-to-School Immunizations:

School and Day Care Minimum Immunization Requirements, school forms, HPV educational materials and other information may be found at the VDH Division of Immunization website at www.vdh.virginia.gov/epidemiology/immunization/requirements.htm

Medical Reserve Corps

Volunteer Recruitment Effort:

The Henrico MRC is actively seeking volunteers to join the MRC to help with upcoming flu season and the likely H1N1 vaccination campaign. Henrico MRC is specifically vaccinators, medical providers and admin support staff. Please see <http://www.co.henrico.va.us/health/mrc.html> for more info.

Upcoming MRC Training Events/Exercises:

Aug 19: Incident Command System Training

Sep 30: Mass Vaccination/Point of Dispensing Training

Training events are open to MRC Members and Non-MRC Members. Please contact Augustine Doe at 501-4643 or Augustine.Doe@vdh.virginia.gov for more information.

Oct 28: Capital Square Continuity of Government Mass Vaccination Exercise. This is a joint exercise between the Richmond, Chesterfield, Chickahominy and Henrico Health Districts and will take place on October 28, 2009 from 9:00 am to 3:30 pm. Please contact 501-4643 to volunteer.

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