



PUBLIC HEALTH BYTES

Henrico Health Department's Newsletter

www.publichealthbytes.org

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

August
2009
Volume 5
Issue 8

Pandemic Flu - ALERT PHASE WHO: 6

Influenza A (H1N1) 2009 Situation Update

VDH is asking medical practices to pre-register to become influenza A (H1N1) 2009 vaccine providers. Pre-Registration is available to any practice licensed to provide immunizations, such as physician offices, occupational health clinics, campus health centers, long term care facilities, home health agencies and other practices. Pre-Registration does not commit you to being an H1N1 vaccine provider and is only the first step in the process. In the next week or two, VDH will email the standard agreement to all pre-registered providers for signature. Once the agreement is finalized, the registered providers will be asked to complete an electronic order form for the vaccine. The vaccine (and related medical supplies) will be provided to you free-of-charge to immunize your priority group patients. For more information and to pre-register, please go to <http://www.vdh.virginia.gov/epidemiology/immunization/h1n1preg.htm>.

H1N1 2009 Vaccine Priority Groups:

- Pregnant women
- Household contacts and caregivers for children younger than 6 months of age
- Healthcare and emergency medical services personnel
- All people from 6 months through 24 years of age
- Persons aged 25 through 64 years who have health conditions associated with higher risk of medical complications from influenza.

Source: <http://www.cdc.gov/h1n1flu/vaccination/acip.htm>.

Seasonal Flu Vaccine: CDC is recommending that seasonal flu vaccination efforts begin as soon as possible, and prior to the release of the influenza A (H1N1) 2009 vaccine.

Influenza-like Illness (ILI) Activity: REGIONAL

The Virginia ILI activity level for the week ending on Aug 29, 2009 was REGIONAL. The State-wide activity level for the previous week (ending Aug 22, 2009) was LOCAL. ILI Activity levels are classified in 5 levels from 0 ("NO ACTIVITY") to 4 ("WIDESPREAD"). "REGIONAL" is level 3 (the 2nd highest level). Please see:

http://www.vdh.virginia.gov/Epidemiology/Surveillance/Influenza/flu_08-09.htm for the full report.

CDC Alert: Negative Rapid Flu Tests Do Not Exclude H1N1 infections:

Rapid Influenza Diagnostic Tests (RIDTs) for seasonal influenza can detect influenza A (H1N1) 2009 virus, but sensitivity has been estimated at 40%-70%. Negative RIDTs should not be used to exclude the diagnosis of influenza A (H1N1) 2009 virus infection.

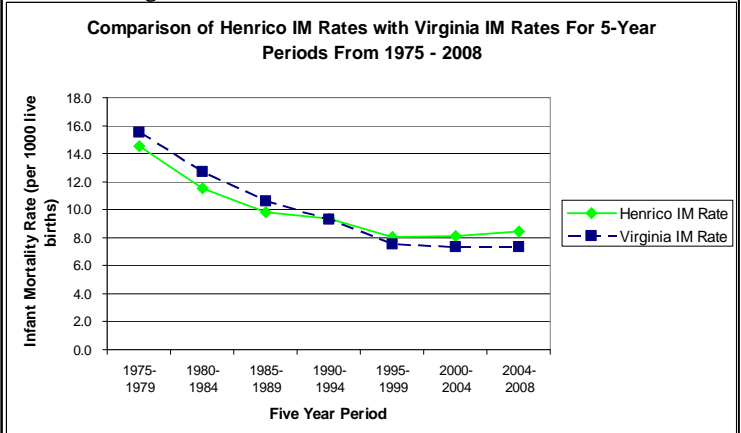
Rabies Update

Sanofi Pasteur has returned to its normal ordering process and is alerting providers that, effective immediately, **it is no longer necessary to complete the Rabies Post-Exposure Use Form and obtain a pass code** prior to ordering IMOVAX Rabies vaccine.

Disease Prevention and Health Promotion

2008 Henrico Infant Mortality Data

While Virginia had its lowest Infant Mortality (IM) rate ever in 2008 (6.3 per 1000 live births), Henrico County's IM rate was 10.3 per 1000 for 2008. Although year to year rates at the County level vary significantly, since 1995-1999 Henrico County's IM average rate has trended higher than the State-wide average, as can be seen in the figure below.



Henrico Infant Mortality Prevention

Henrico County hosted an Infant Mortality Prevention Town Hall meeting on Aug 24, 2009 in Fairfield District. An additional IM Prevention Town Hall will take place on September 21st in Varina District at the Henrico Theater, 305 Nine Mile Rd at 7pm. Henrico Health Department continues to seek partners to build a Community Action Team (CAT) for the 2009-2010 Saving Babies Campaign. If you or your organization is interested in becoming involved in our infant mortality prevention effort, please contact 501-4643 or HenricoMRC@vdh.virginia.gov.

Medical Reserve Corps

Volunteer Recruitment Effort:

The Henrico MRC is still seeking volunteers. Please see <http://www.co.henrico.va.us/health/mrc.html> for more info.

Upcoming MRC Training Events/Exercises:

Sep 30: Mass Vaccination/Point of Dispensing Training To Participate please contact Augustine Doe at 501-4643 or HenricoMRC@vdh.virginia.gov for more information.

Oct 28: Capitol Square Mass Vaccination Exercise has been cancelled so that efforts can be focused on the current H1N1 response.

Prepared by Henrico Health District:

Dr William R. Nelson	Acting Health Director
Michael K. Magner, MPH	District Emergency Planner
Susan Fischer-Davis, MD	Co-District Director
Augustine Doe, MHSA	District MRC Coordinator

Tel: (804) 501-4522 Fax: (804) 501-4232
Emergency Number: 1-866-531-3068
<http://www.HenricoHealth.org>