



CROWN Memorandum

Memo Number: 09-0486-GN

TO: ESRD Executive Directors, ESRD Data Managers, Regional Project Officers

FROM: Samantha Richardson, Director, Division of Quality Improvement Policy for Chronic and Ambulatory Care

PREPARED BY: Kelly Anderson/ Jacqueline Abt

DATE: November 23, 2009

SUBJECT: 2009 H1N1 Flu Information

The purpose of the memo is to request your voluntary effort to disseminate the information below related to the 2009 H1N1 virus to your facilities as ESRD and transplant patients are in the high risk category.

The Department of Health and Human Services thanks each ESRD Network for your work in communities across the country. As this year's flu season continues, we want to provide you with up-to-date information about the new 2009 H1N1 virus, and also give you some easy-to-read information with the hope that it will reach people who need it the most.

Below the line is an email template that includes important resources to help protect families and communities from H1N1. **Participation in this outreach effort is voluntary.**

2009 H1N1 UPDATES

- Flu activity is already higher than what is seen during the peak of many regular flu seasons. Almost all of the flu viruses identified this season so far are 2009 H1N1.
- All states have placed orders for the 2009 H1N1 vaccine, and more orders are expected daily. Vaccine is arriving in thousands of places across the country. Because the vaccine distribution system varies by state, the vaccine situation on the ground may differ from community to community.
- The 2009 H1N1 vaccine is taking longer to produce than manufacturers initially expected. Scientists, doctors, and manufacturers are working around the clock to produce this vaccine safely, effectively, and as quickly as the science allows. The U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, through state and local health departments, will continue to make the vaccine available as soon as it comes off the production line.

- Clinical trials conducted by the National Institutes of Health and the vaccine manufacturers have shown that the new H1N1 vaccine is both safe and effective.
- In the past, flu pandemics have been characterized by multiple waves. Scientists and doctors recommend H1N1 vaccination even if flu activity slows, as it could resume later in the season.

Please feel free to share any general feedback you receive for additional information and materials. Again, dissemination of this information is voluntary.

Should you have questions, contact:

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Dear Friend:

You've probably been hearing a lot this year about the H1N1 flu. And you may have questions. You may have even had the flu, or know a friend or neighbor who has been sick. This email features some tools suggested by the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services to help you prevent the flu, know what to do if you get sick, and find a place to get vaccinated.

People recommended by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) to receive the vaccine as soon possible include: health care workers; pregnant women; people ages 25 through 64 with chronic medical conditions, such as asthma, heart disease, or diabetes; anyone from 6 months through 24 years of age; and people living with or caring for infants under 6 months old.

[FLU.gov](#) is a one-stop resource with the latest updates on the H1N1 flu. On this site, you can find information on [How to Prevent and Treat the Flu](#), [Flu Essentials](#) and [Why the H1N1 Vaccine is Safe and Recommended by Health Experts](#). To look up where to get vaccinated in your state, visit the [Vaccine Locator](#). This information is updated regularly as more doses are shipped each week.

An additional resource is the CDC hotline, **1-800-CDC-INFO (1-800-232-4636)**, which offers services in English and Spanish, 24 hours a day, 7 days a week.

Heard a rumor? Visit [Myths & Facts](#) to run a fact check.

Please forward this email to your family, friends, co-workers and networks today. Let's work together to help keep our communities safe and healthy.