



3 August 2009 8:45AM  
10178-DAD-08-03-09

## This is an official DHEC Health Advisory

### Pre-Registration for Pandemic Influenza Vaccine and Antivirals: Join with DHEC in the Fight Against H1N1

#### PURPOSE:

South Carolina Department of Health and Environmental Control (SC DHEC) is establishing a pre-registration process for:

- (a) licensed healthcare providers to administer pandemic influenza vaccine
- (b) licensed healthcare providers to dispense antiviral medication.

- There is *no cost*.
- There is *no obligation*.
- There is *liability protection*.
- You will be *able to charge an administration fee* for vaccine administration (see next page for more information).
- You will be *able to charge a dispensing fee* for antiviral dispensing (see next page for more information).
- You will not be the sole provider of antivirals or vaccine; DHEC will be working with many community partners, including businesses and schools.

#### BENEFITS OF PRE-REGISTRATION:

- Receipt of email and fax updates regarding vaccine planning and antiviral medication distribution.
- Receive a provider agreement to formally register to become pandemic influenza vaccine providers and/or antiviral medication dispenser once "final" Federal guidance is obtained.

#### HOW TO PRE-REGISTER:

- Online pre-registration form can be accessed at <https://www.scdhec.gov/panflu-preregistration/> (takes < 5 min to complete).
- Once you are pre-registered, information will be routinely communicated via email and fax blast.
- *Timing is critical* – please pre-register as soon as possible.

#### LIABILITY PROTECTION:

- See - "H1N1 Liability Concerns for Community Partners" at <http://www.scdhec.gov/flu/A-H1N1-liability-concerns.htm>. This document provides an overview to the targeted federal liability protections found in the Public Readiness and Emergency Preparedness Act, 42 U.S.C. §§ 247d-6d and 247d-6e.
- The liability protections contained within these statutes will apply to those who formally register (completed, signed and returned agreement) as a SC Pandemic Influenza Vaccine/ Antiviral Medication Provider.

#### QUESTIONS:

- Pre-registration questions related to vaccine call Rebecca Morrison or Susan Smith at **(803) 898-0460** or **(800) 277-4687**
- Pre-registration questions related to antiviral call Joanne Epley at **(803) 898-8383**



## MORE INFORMATION/ FAQs

### General:

- The best tool for mitigating the impact of an influenza epidemic is the timely administration of an effective vaccine.
- In the fall of 2009, two different types of influenza vaccine are expected to be recommended for persons in the United States: seasonal vaccine and a separate vaccine solely for protection from the novel H1N1 virus (hereafter referred to as the “pandemic virus”) that emerged in the spring of 2009, too late to be included in the seasonal influenza vaccine production process.

### Seasonal Influenza Vaccine:

- Seasonal influenza vaccine distribution and administration will proceed through usual channels this fall. *Unlike the pandemic vaccine, pre-registration is not necessary for the seasonal vaccine.*
- The importance of seasonal flu vaccination is undiminished by the emergence of the pandemic virus; seasonal viruses are co-circulating with the pandemic virus, and will still cause serious illness and death this season.
- The most important step for seasonal influenza vaccine providers this fall is to use the vaccine as early as possible – *do not wait*. Protective immunity for all population groups will persist for at least a year. The vaccine supply is expected to be comparable to last season – approximately 115 million doses nationally – the majority will be distributed between August and the beginning of November.

### Pandemic Influenza Vaccine:

- The federal government has contracted with five manufacturers to produce pandemic influenza vaccine for this fall. Pandemic vaccine will be produced in both inactivated injectable and live attenuated nasal spray forms. Manufacturers will eventually produce enough vaccine to fully saturate United States demand. The federal government plans to purchase and ship the vaccine at no cost to designated providers. If supplies are initially limited, certain recipients may be prioritized. Once vaccine is widely available, those priorities will be dropped and vaccine will be encouraged for anyone who wants to be vaccinated.
- At this point, critical unknowns remain regarding nationwide distribution. These unknowns include: the quantities initially available (though roughly 100 million doses are projected available nationally in the first month of distribution); whether 2 doses will be necessary (and if so, for whom); timing of initial availability (probably October); target populations and federal reporting requirements.
- What *is* known is that this massive immunization effort will require the active participation of a wide range of immunization providers in many venues (medical offices, public health, hospitals, pharmacies, home health, community immunizers, schools and other non-traditional venues). Per federal plans, SC DHEC will coordinate and manage the direct shipments of all pandemic vaccine in South Carolina.

### Antiviral Medication for Pandemic Influenza:

- In addition to the vaccine, the State of South Carolina in conjunction with the Federal government has procured for the citizens of South Carolina a supply of antiviral medications which can currently be used to lessen the severity of illness in individuals who are infected with the pandemic virus.
- These drugs are to be reserved for the treatment of infected individuals in the event that commercial supplies are exhausted or to provide for the treatment of South Carolinians who fall through the gaps of the healthcare system and do not have the resources to obtain the needed medication.

### Administration Fee and/or Dispensing Fee:

- While it is our understanding that a fee can be charged for vaccine administration and dispensing of antivirals, *information from the Federal government regarding the fee details is not yet available.*
- Information will be sent via email and fax to pre-registered providers once guidance is available.