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New Mexico SIIP 2009-10 project

By Anna Pentler, MPH, MBA
New Mexico Immunization Coalition

Over 145 schools in 41 New Mexico communities have stepped forward to participate in the School Influenza Immunization Project (SIIP).

In order to protect children from influenza and to stop the spread of influenza, school nurses, public health nurses, school health advocates and others are providing flu vaccine to children in select schools around the state. School clinics are already well underway. Permission forms and a letter to the parents explaining the project were sent home in August and September. Schools have scheduled dates and times for their clinics, and school nurses are working closely with their local Public Health Offices to order vaccines and supplies.

All children 6 months to 18 years of age are recommended to get an annual flu immunization. This is a huge undertaking and would be impossible to accomplish if all children were vaccinated by their health care provider.

This is the second year of the School Influenza Immunization Project. For 2009-10, the project has expanded, nearly doubling the number of participating schools. Feedback from last year and lessons learned from school nurses’ responses to a questionnaire, helped shape this year’s project. In addition to revising permission forms and other materials, project staff pulled together a manual to help projects benefit from best practices in the pilot phase. The Immunization Program at the Department of Health has earmarked 60,000 doses of regular seasonal vaccine for this important project.

In Albuquerque, the project received an added boost. La Tierra Sagrada Society, a granting agency for UNM’s School of Medicine, awarded the project a grant to help train health sciences students to participate in these school clinics. Further, MarieAnn North who runs Posada Consulting Company matched the grant, doubling the amount. The grant has funded a coordinator for the Albuquerque metro area for 6 months, which has increased the amount of support given to the HSC students and to Albuquerque area schools.

The SIIP team developed a training course for HSC students — and anyone needing a refresher — on influenza, pandemics and vaccine administration. Three in-person trainings were held at UNM in September and October. The training is also online at the NMIC SIIP webpage. Over 150 medical, nursing, pharmacy, physician assistant, and public health students attended the trainings. An online registry has been set up for students to sign up to volunteer at clinics in the Albuquerque metro area. This unique opportunity will help train and mobilize HSC students when assistance is needed for the H1N1 pandemic.

To learn more about the SIIP, to complete the online training, or to register as a volunteer, visit our website: http://hsc.unm.edu/programs/nmimmunization/SchoolFlu.shtml
NMIC members enjoying the August meeting with Dr. Andrew Kroger, keynote speaker, at the Albuquerque Hilton. **Left to Right, top to bottom:** Gary Overturf, Andrew Kroger, keynote speaker of CDC and Gayle Kenny, NMDOH Infectious Disease Bureau Chief; Hubert Allen and Drew Klinger, CASA contractors; Cindy Romero with Carrie Johannes, both of DOH; Lorraine Johnson and Michelle Woodruff of Crownpoint Healthcare with Stephanie Campbell of Novartis; Sherry Speciale, Sara Daugherty-Pineda, Peggy Mohoric and Judi Faulkner all of BCBSNM; Jacque Booth, Janeene Grassie, Lolita Martinez, and Bobby Sanchez; Debby Hanus, Damian King of MedImmune, John Hartoon and Carla Floyd of Region V.

**Welcome Harriet Robbins, new DOH Immunization Program Manager**

We are pleased to introduce Harriet Robbins, New Mexico’s new Immunization Program Manager at the DOH. Harriet has over twenty years of experience working with the Massachusetts Department of Public Health developing and managing community-based health systems. While at the Department, she was involved in the design and management of a nationally recognized social marketing campaign which played a significant role in reducing smoking prevalence in Massachusetts. Most recently, she has worked as an independent consultant in Ontario, Canada with the Ministry of Health and Long Term Care and the Ministry of Health Promotion planning and developing new program initiatives. In 1975, Harriet received an EdM from Harvard University Graduate School of Education.
H1N1 Vaccine

The latest MMWR lists the guidance for use for the new H1N1 vaccine that is just now starting to be shipped to the states. Excerpted below are some of the highlights. Please refer to the entire MMWR for more information: http://www.cdc.gov/mmwr/preview/mmwrhtml/mm5839a3.htm

This fall there are four manufacturers producing Pandemic H1N1 Influenza vaccine. Both live, attenuated and inactivated influenza A (H1N1) 2009 monovalent vaccine formulations are available; each contains the strain A/California/7/2009(H1N1)pdm.

None of the approved influenza A 2009 (H1N1) monovalent vaccines or seasonal influenza vaccines contains adjuvants. Children aged 6 months–9 years receiving influenza A (H1N1) 2009 monovalent vaccines should receive 2 doses, with doses separated by approximately 4 weeks; persons aged ≥10 years should receive 1 dose.

Vaccine produced by CSL Limited is approved for use in persons aged ≥6 months and older, vaccine produced by Novartis Vaccines and Diagnostics Limited is approved for persons aged ≥4 years, and vaccine produced by sanofi pasteur is approved for persons aged ≥6 months. A live attenuated influenza vaccine (LAIV) manufactured by MedImmune is approved for persons aged 2-49 years. The 2009 (H1N1) monovalent LAIV has the same age range for use as the seasonal LAIV and should not be used to vaccinate children aged <2 years, adults aged >49 years, pregnant women, persons with underlying medical conditions that confer a higher risk for influenza complications, or children aged <5 years old with one or more episodes of wheezing in the past year.

Four manufacturers are producing H1N1 influenza vaccine...
• CSL Limited
• MedImmune
• Novartis Vaccines
• Sanofi pasteur

Influenza activity attributed to 2009 H1N1 viruses has increased during September 2009 and is expected to continue through the fall and winter influenza season. Surveillance data indicate that the 2009 H1N1 viruses have not undergone substantial antigenic change since they were first characterized in April 2009 and should be well-matched to the monovalent vaccine strain. Influenza A (H1N1) 2009 monovalent vaccines will be available in many areas by mid-October. Vaccines against seasonal influenza are available now, and immunization programs and providers should begin or continue administering seasonal influenza vaccines as recommended. Additional data from clinical trials will be available over the coming weeks, and immunization providers should periodically look for updates on use of influenza A (2009) H1N1 monovalent vaccines at http://www.cdc.gov/flu

To access the table of all the influenza A (H1N1) 2009 monovalent vaccines approved for use in the United States go to: http://www.cdc.gov/flu/freeresources/2009-10/pdf/h1n1_influenza_A_2009_monovalent_vaccine_dosage_chart.pdf

Decision tree for administration of H1N1 influenza vaccine

This decision tree applies to children aged two years and older—assuming no contraindications to FluMist or shot.
Calendar of upcoming events

**November**
11/19  NMIC Steering Committee meeting, 2:00-4:00pm

**December**
12/4  Full NMIC meeting and seventh anniversary celebration

**January**
1/21/10  NMIC Steering Committee meeting, 2:00-4:00pm

**February**
2/18/10  NMIC Steering Committee meeting, 2:00-4:00pm

Lorraine Padilla of GSK with Paula Timmerman, Suzie Cox and Jackie Cardona of the New Mexico Department of Health.

Contact us...

NM Immunization Coalition News is published quarterly. Please contact Maggie June at 505-272-3032 or via email at mjune@salud.unm.edu if you have an item to submit for the newsletter.