



*Maine Center for Disease
Control and Prevention*

*An Office of the
Department of Health and Human Services*

John E. Baldacci, Governor

Brenda M. Harvey, Commissioner

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Dear MIP Vaccine Providers,

On February 25, 2009, the Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices (ACIP) made policy recommendations for use of seasonal influenza vaccine for the 2009-2010 influenza season. Starting with this upcoming influenza season (2009/2010) All children aged 6 months through 18 years are recommended to receive vaccination against seasonal influenza for the 2009-2010 influenza season. We expect that there will be an increase in the number of parents who will want to have their children vaccinated against seasonal influenza. Although seasonal influenza vaccine will not protect specifically against H1N1, it will help improve the overall health of a child during this coming influenza season when both seasonal and H1N1 influenza strains may be circulating.

In light of this new influenza recommendation and logistics of having all these children timely vaccinated at their local healthcare provider offices, the Department of Education (DOE) and the Maine Immunization Program (MIP) are interested in offering influenza vaccine to school-based clinics in the fall of 2009. These clinics would be held in collaboration with school districts and local healthcare provider offices.

Here is the minimum requirement to get flu vaccine from the ME CDC:

- An existing MIP vaccine provider with adequate space to receive and store vaccine shipments (or potentially a provider who is willing to become an MIP vaccine provider)
- Ability to maintain cold chain in transportation of the vaccine and at the of the clinic held by signing an MOU between the school/school district and the health care provider for the cooperation (model of the MOU is provided as the attachment)
- Adequate nursing staff to administer vaccine to the amount of children at the school/school districts
- Identify sites to dispose sharps and biohazard after clinic.

School physicians at the vaccinating site would be very helpful but not a necessary required. The presence of the school physician or his/her representative during the clinic would be able to answer any questions and concerns parents/student may have.

Maine CDC would provide:

- Flu vaccine to school/school district (via the local MIP vaccine provider)
- Educational materials
- The costs of materials needed to administer vaccine (gauges, band-aid strips, alcohol pads, epi pens, etc.)
- A standing order to have school nurses vaccinating students.

Please see the attached file for the template of the MOA and the order form for flu vaccine for the school-based clinics.

If you have any general questions or comments regarding the school-based clinic, please call Nancy Dube, School Nurse Consultant, DOE, at 624-6688; if you have questions regarding flu vaccine order for the school-based clinic, please call the MIP at 1-800-867-4775 or 1-207-287-3746.

Sincerely,
Maine Immunization Program

CC: Nancy Dube, School Nurse Consultant, Dept. of Education, Maine
Superintendents and school nurses in Maine (via Nancy D.)