



Immu-News

November 2009

H1N1—an Update

Welcome to Immu-News, the Immunization Initiatives listserv, a monthly resource for the community of participants in this project. We hope the listserv will truly be of service to you as each of you searches for ways to improve your ability to record and access immunization data, to increase immunizations provided to your clients, and thus to improve the health of your community.

Our topic for the month is H1N1 vaccinations. Dealing with both seasonal flu vaccinations and the constant swirl of information, availability, and updates around the H1N1 vaccine has made this a challenging season flu season for providers. We offer direct links to several CDC web pages and one patient flyer from the CDC.

We think it's very important to keep in mind the following, as you continue to provide services to migrant clients, from MCN's Chief Medical Officer, in April 28 of 2009:

"We are concerned, given that the population we serve is largely from Mexico, that unwarranted fear of Mexican migrants in many communities will result in their being targeted or marginalized," said Edward Zuroweste, MD, Chief Medical Officer of the Migrant Clinicians Network. "We wanted to reiterate that unless the migrant traveled to Mexico within the recent past, their risk of transmitting swine flu is minimal and they are at equal risk to the standing population for contracting the disease."

What are other ways that H1N1 virus might be affecting migrant farmworkers? We offer links to three media articles about migrants and H1N1, one from the Detroit News, one from National Public Radio, and one from Environmental Health Perspectives On Line:

- **H1N1 outbreak hits migrants:** Cuts left few state inspectors to deal with spread in camps. In Michigan, the Detroit News finds that state budget cuts have a direct effect on migrant health and the spread of H1N1. What is happening with state budgets and migrant labor safeguards in other states, including yours?

<http://detnews.com/article/20091104/METRO/911040348/H1N1-outbreak-hits-migrants>.

- **Racial Minorities Face More Swine Flu Struggles.** “Minority communities are among those most at risk for swine flu,” states the article from NPR. Issues discussed include lack of time for sick leave, lack of information in languages other than English, cost of vaccines, and higher rates of underlying conditions such as diabetes.
http://www.npr.org/blogs/health/2009/11/racial_minorities_latinos_face.html

- **Swine CAFOs [concentrated animal feeding operations] and Novel H1N1 Flu: Separating Facts from Fears.** In this article, the author points out the potential hazards for employees, often migrant and minority workers, of CAFOs [concentrated animal feeding operations]. Since such animal feed lots are possibly potent breeders of new strains of the virus, which can be passed from animal to human and vice versa, surveillance of such farm operations should extend to the workers as well. Environmental Health Perspectives Volume 117, Number 9, September 2009
<http://www.ehponline.org/members/2009/117-9/focus.html>

We would like to hear about your experience with H1N1 vaccination and the migrant populations you serve. Send an e-mail to Kate Bero at kbero@migrantclinician.org or to the listserv administrator: kath@healthletter.com.

Immu-News returns this month to Grounded in Practice, our feature highlighting the service of clinics in the Immunization Initiatives project. La Clínica de Baldwin, in Foley, Alabama, talks to us about their immunization practices.

To subscribe or unsubscribe to the Listserv, please see the information at the bottom of the page, and pass the word to other staff in your clinic. Immu-News is available online at the Migrant Clinician Network’s website. Go to www.migrantclinician.org/immunizations.html

Grounded in Practice

La **Clínica de Baldwin**, in Foley, Alabama, one of the clinics participating in MCN’s immunization Initiative project, talks about its immunization policies.

La Clínica has been seeing patients since 1999 at a rate of between 7, 700 and 14,000 patients per year. The number of migrants at work in the area at any one time accounts for the variation. Recently the patient population has been down. Since Hurricanes Ivan and Katrina many farmers have stopped doing business. Some farmers have switched to more mechanized crops that require less human labor.

With less agricultural work available, less migrants come to the area. Migrants still work with sweet potatoes and strawberries.

The patient population at La Clinica is primarily migrant women and children. La Clinica provides OB/GYN for women, which includes physicals and Paps (2-3/day). They currently have 15-18 pregnant patients per week. They offer the general services of a typical primary care clinic, including hypertension and diabetes education and vaccines for kids. Case manager helps patients fill out paperwork for Medicaid and Medicare and other programs. HD brings in staff in order to do an HIV clinic.

La Clinica is staffed by an NP, MD, OBGYN, medical assistants and a case manager.

Educating Patients

- The clinic is committed to educating their patients on immunizations. If a patient/ parent of a patient is hesitant about vaccines, staff will offer education.
- Staff works to understand patients concerns. The goal is to educate patients so they can make their own, informed decisions.
- Patients have the right to know what immunizations they need.

Screening-

- Talk to adults about all vaccines, including those they are not able to offer at the clinic.
- Have a good relationship with the local health department and refer patients there for immunizations.
- Avoid missed opportunities and minimize barriers. If a patient is in the clinic and is due for a vaccine, staff will vaccinate him/her that day. The majority of patients are seen on a first come, first serve, walk-in basis.
- Ask routinely. Staff is very good at asking children about immunizations, but wants to improve at screening adolescents and adults. When asked what would help them remember to screen routinely, they answered that having a reminder mechanism would be helpful.

Monitoring-

- Continue to use Alabama's state registry, ImmPRINT. The registry covers 0-18 year olds only. MAs plan to schedule an ImmPRINT training to learn about ImmPRINT reporting capabilities.
- Give updated record cards. After administering a vaccine, staff gives patients updated immunization records printed from ImmPRINT. If patient has an immunization card with them, staff will update it as well.

H1N1 Updates

1. **For your clients:** If you don't have H1N1 vaccine at your clinic, you can find out where in your area to send your clients, using the vaccine locator at http://www.flu.gov/individualfamily/vaccination/locator.html?WT.mc_id=fluLocator_Nov09&WT.mc_ev=click

Click your state on a map at this website. This will send you to your state's health department site, and each of these sites will tell you how to find locations for local areas. Each state will be slightly different in terms of how you get local information. You might click on a map or enter a zip code, but eventually you will get there!

An additional flu locator can be found at <http://www.lungusa.org/lung-disease/influenza/flu-clinic-locator/>

2. **For providers:** State/Jurisdiction Contact Information for Providers Interested in Providing H1N1 Vaccine.
<http://www.cdc.gov/h1n1flu/vaccination/statecontacts.htm>
3. Where to get updates:
 - a. CDC's main H1N1 webpage: <http://www.cdc.gov/h1n1flu>
 - b. Latest information from CDC:
<http://www.cdc.gov/h1n1flu/whatsnew.htm>
 - i. Guidance for clinicians:
<http://www.cdc.gov/h1n1flu/guidance>
 - ii. Guidance for employers for protection of of migrant and seasonal farmworkers from the novel H1N1 Flu Virus:
http://www.cdc.gov/h1n1flu/guidance/migrant_farmworkers.htm We know that many of you work closely in outreach programs with employers, and you might want to pass this along to them.
 1. NOTE: At the time of this posting, the CDC website listed this page as "currently being updated and temporarily unavailable." It should be available soon.

- c. H1N1 influenza vaccination resources:
<http://www.cdc.gov/h1n1flu/vaccination>
- d. General information for the public:
http://www.cdc.gov/h1n1flu/general_info.htm
- e. Subscribe to CDC's email updates:
<http://www.cdc.gov/emailupdates/index.html>
- f. Q and A from the CDC:
http://www.cdc.gov/h1n1flu/vaccination/public/vaccination_qa_public.htm
 - i. Downloadable brochures and informational flyers:
<http://www.cdc.gov/h1n1flu/flyers.htm>

Of special note in this category: The flyer “If your kids are a size.... then they need a flu vaccine.” (Scroll down to the end of the listserv to view)
http://www.cdc.gov/flu/freeresources/2009-10/pdf/f_parents_pr.pdf

This is a good easy-to-read flyer reminding clients vaccinate their children. 8x11, print it right in your office. There's plenty of blank space on the poster—you might want to hand-write in this space the address and location for WHERE they can receive vaccines if you don't yet have any at your clinic. Update by sticking a label over the info, as the info is likely to change as supplies come in.

REMEMBER: flu vaccines offer an understandable, easy lead-in to asking clients, both children and adults, if other vaccines are up to date. We know that you are on top of seasonal flu screening and encourage you, as you add H1N1, to think of this as a great opportunity to remind clients about other vaccines!

4. Flu VISs (Vaccine Information Statements)

Through the Immunization Action Coalition, you can find flu Vaccine Information Statements (VIS) in Spanish and in English. There are four different statements, each with an English or Spanish version:

- a. H1N1 Inactivated Injection
 - ENG http://www.immunize.org/vis/h1n1_inactiveflu.pdf
 - SPAN http://www.immunize.org/vis/sp_h1n1_inact.pdf
- b. H1N1 Flu Mist (live, intranasal)
 - ENG http://www.immunize.org/vis/h1n1_liveflu.pdf
 - SPAN http://www.immunize.org/vis/sp_h1n1_live.pdf
- c. Seasonal Flu Inactivated Injection

- ENG <http://www.immunize.org/vis/2flu.pdf>
- SPAN <http://www.immunize.org/vis/spflu06.pdf>
- d. Seasonal Flu Mist (live, intranasal)
 - ENG <http://www.immunize.org/vis/liveflu.pdf>
 - SPAN <http://www.immunize.org/vis/spliveflu06.pdf>

- 5. Also from IAC: Standing Orders for H1N1:
http://www.immunize.org/standingorders/#inf_h1n1

Immu-News is a project of the Migrant Clinicians Network. The Immunization Initiative is funded by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. The Immu-News Listserv is a support service for clinics participating in the project. This is a post-only listserv, and postings will come from Immunization Initiative staff about once a month. If others at your clinic would like to be on the listserv, or if you have questions about the listserv or resources listed here, or if you would like to add something to the posts, please contact Kathryn Anderson, administrator, at kath@healthletter.com. You can also contact the listserv administrator if you would like to subscribe or unsubscribe from the list.