

New Mexico Influenza Vaccine Consortium Monthly Meeting

September 9, 2009

10:00 to 11:30 a.m.

NMMRA Large Conference Room

5801 Osuna Rd. NE, Suite 200

In Person:

Kristine Adams, GlaxoSmithKline
 Lydia L. Alvarez, GlaxoSmithKline
 Anthony Aspaas, Crownpoint PHS Hospital
 Katie Avery, New Mexico Department of Health (NMDOH)
 Rudy Balquin, NMDOH Immunization Program
 Merrie Blue, New Mexico Medical Review Association (NMMRA)
 Sheila Conneen, NMMRA
 Anna Dykeman, NMMRA
 Joie Glenn, New Mexico Association for Home and Hospice Care
 Janis Gonzales, Children's Medical Services
 John Frank, SanofiPasteur
 Jeanine Juckette, Lovelace Westside Hospital
 Ralph McClish, New Mexico Osteopathic Association (NMOMA)
 Courtney Overton, NMMRA
 Kelli Reynolds, Evercare of New Mexico

LeeAnn Roberts, NMDOH

Karen Sakala, New Mexico Primary Care Association (NMPCA)

Bobby J. Sanchez, New Mexico Statewide Immunization Information System (SIIS)

By Phone:

Tracy Alter, New Mexico Health Care Association

Twyla Anderson, Memorial Medical Center
 John Denslow, First Choice Community Healthcare

Connie Fiorenzio, Nurse Advice New Mexico

Jessica Gosling, St. Vincent Regional Medical Center

Rich Heddens, Novartis Vaccines

Sharon Notah-White, Molina Healthcare

Anna Pentler, New Mexico Immunization Coalition (NMIC)

Kris Porcher, Lovelace Health Plan

Bobbi West, Sierra Vista Hospital

Welcome and Introductions:

- Sheila introduced herself and asked all participating members to also introduce themselves.

Vaccines for Children (VFC) Program Overview and Vaccine Status:

- Rudy Balquin gave an overview of influenza vaccine status for the state. The doses of seasonal influenza vaccine are starting to come in for the VFC program and will be distributed throughout the state. The adult doses have not been shipped to McKesson yet but are expected to arrive by the end of the week. An e-mail will be sent out in the near future on when the doses will be delivered to the facilities. For providers in the VFC program to receive vaccine they must have respond to the NMDOH e-mail. No vaccine will go out to the facility unless they have responded to this email. A total of 70,000 doses have been purchased for the adult program; but the delivery schedule is not known yet.
- LeeAnn Roberts from NMDOH explained how the H1N1 vaccine distribution is going operate. The state will be the only organization distributing vaccine to the facilities. The first

shipment of 300,000 doses is expected in October. All providers will have to sign provider agreements to receive doses directly. All providers also will have to preregister on the Web site, indicating that they have staff qualified to administer the vaccine and capacity to store the vaccine they receive. If there are any adjustments to the numbers of doses that providers need, they must provide that information before the release of the vaccine.

New Mexico Statewide Immunization Information System (NMSIIS) Overview:

- Bobby Sanchez explained how NMSIIS tracks immunizations that are given in the state, how many providers use this program, and the amount of antivirals that are prescribed by health care workers in the state. The program upgrade went live on September 7 and it is working well. So far there are about 5,457 users and more than 1.6 million records in the system and 60 million immunizations are listed in the program. On the day it went live, more than 480 users logged on and 890 immunizations were recorded. Duplicate and incorrect records are being identified and removed from the system. A new module of the program is being written so that one can order vaccines online directly from McKesson. A new H1N1 vaccination form is being developed and will be deployed soon. NMDOH is hiring additional data entry clerks, vaccinators and analytic personnel to help with the work load. A training demonstration on NMSIIS will be held during the next NMIVC meeting on October 14, from 11:00 a.m. to noon.

School Flu Vaccination Project:

- Anna Pentler gave an update on the school vaccine program. The schools are ordering the vaccines based on how many forms are turned in. The forms given out to the parents are slow in coming in. Many of the schools did not give out the permission slips or the vaccine information statement (VIS) forms at registration because the nurses were not available until the start of school. Most schools will start vaccinating after October 1. NMIC will present at least three trainings for volunteer vaccinators. The first trainings will be at UNM on Thursday, September 17 from 3:30 to 6:00 p.m., Wednesday September 23 from noon to 2:00 p.m. and on Thursday, October 1 from 5:00 to 7:00 p.m. for nursing, pharmacology and other students from both UNM and CNM. Audio training will also be available. Volunteers can register online to participate in the training. A question was brought up about who can give shots. Eligible are nursing students, pharmacy students, medical students and physician assistant students if they are working under a licensed preceptor or provider.

Surveillance Update:

- Katie Avery reported that outpatient visits for H1N1 influenza symptoms are on the rise. Rapid testing ordering has increased and several results have come back positive for influenza A. Cluster surveillance is not currently being done formally but might increase in the near future because of the cases reported at a Kirtland daycare, a Los Alamos middle school and the Albuquerque Police Academy. At all these locations the cases were confirmed as the novel H1N1 influenza strain.
- Hospital surveillance is ramping up to measure the level of severity of influenza in the state. This year the state will receive hospitalized case numbers of those admitted to hospitals that

have been diagnosed with flu-related symptoms, including those associated with pneumonia, exacerbation of asthma, COPD and influenza-like illness. This program will keep track of admission coding, testing ordered, and confirmed influenza cases. All infection control points of contact will report the results weekly to NMDOH, starting September 15. Mortality surveillance on flu deaths will also be done on a weekly basis

Communications Overview: Materials, Web Updates:

- Anna Dykeman discussed the NMIVC Web site, which has been updated with current information on seasonal and H1N1 influenza. The vaccine reporting tutorial is available in PDF format on the Web site, and the video version will be available by the end of the week.
- Weekly e-mails will start to go out on September 14 regarding flu vaccine tracking. Responders do not need to update the information every week but only when they have changes or new information to report. The e-mails regarding flu clinic reporting will start in October. The H1N1 flu clinic reporting module is not available yet, but it is expected to launch in tandem with the seasonal flu clinic reporting in October.

Nurse Advice New Mexico:

- Connie Fiorenzio reported that lots of calls are coming into the immunization line. The main subjects of these calls are flu symptom inquiries, the Tots Get Shots Program, and where they can get a flu shot. NMDOH is implementing the Syndrome Surveillance software program to track symptoms that patients report during triage. This program looks for key words in the patient's chief complaint, the nurses' assessment of the chief complaint, associated symptoms, the guideline that was used, and the positive responses. The program then assigns a score associated with the items identified and the nine syndromes and rates it as being associated with the flu or not. Nurse Advice New Mexico personnel are working with the New Mexico Primary Care Association on this program to try to get prior notification of possible outbreaks and what kind of vaccine is needed instead of after the flu outbreak has occurred. An example of how the data report will look was provided. Several other states are using the same program with good results.

Announcements and Wrap-up:

- Attendees reviewed the following attachments: MLN Matters, Talking Points on CDC's Guidance on Helping Child Care and Early Childhood Programs Respond to Influenza during the 2009-2010 Influenza Season, and the Pneumococcal Polysaccharide and Seasonal Influenza Pocket Information Guides.
- Ralph McClish expressed concerns raised by members of NMOMA regarding the safety of H1N1 vaccine, which is still in clinical trials. Participants discussed these concerns and noted that every year the developers of seasonal influenza vaccine must include the different strains of influenza that are expected that season and conduct trials of vaccine effectiveness and safety. The H1N1 vaccine is being developed and tested in the same manner.
- Joie Glenn stated that a panel of experts will present a teleconference on September 23, discussing the role of home health care providers in disaster preparedness, including teaching patients and caregivers how to stay at home safely.
- The next meeting of NMIVC will be on **October 14 from 10:00 to noon** at NMMRA.