



New Mexico Influenza Vaccine Consortium

New Mexico Influenza Vaccine Consortium Monthly Meeting

October 14, 2009

10:30 a.m. to noon

NMMRA Large Conference Room

5801 Osuna Rd. NE, Suite 200

In Person:

Lyda Alvarez, GlaxoSmith-Kline (GSK)
Jennifer Arellano, New Mexico Statewide
Immunization Information System (NMSIIS)
Sheila Conneen, New Mexico Medical
Review Association (NMMRA)
Hilary Dennis, MedImmune
Anna Dykeman, NMMRA
Frank John, SanofiPasteur
Gayle Kenny, NMDOH
Courtney Overton, NMMRA
Lorraine Padilla, GlaxoSmithKline (GSK)
Harriet Robbins, NM Department of Health
(NMDOH)
Karen Sakala, New Mexico Primary Care
Association (NMPCA)
Linda Sechovec, New Mexico Health Care
Association

By Phone:

Twyla Anderson, Memorial Medical Center
Katie Avery, NMDOH
Jan Ellis, Presbyterian Health Plan
Connie Fiorenzio, Nurse Advice New Mexico
Janis Gonzales, Children's Medical Services
Jessica Gosling, St. Vincent Hospital
Rich Heddens, Novartis Vaccines
Damian King, MedImmune
Anna Pentler, New Mexico Immunization
Coalition
Kelli Reynolds, Evercare of New Mexico
Vivian Silverman, Lovelace Medical Center,
Downtown
Judith Tallman, Heart Hospital of New
Mexico

Welcome and Introductions

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

Vaccines for Children (VFC) Program Overview and Vaccine Status

Gayle Kenny gave an update on the VFC program and the status of seasonal influenza and H1N1 vaccine availability in the state. Some of the H1N1 vaccine is being shipped to providers by McKesson. The H1N1 vaccine is only distributed in 100-dose packages. Therefore, NMDOH and others are breaking down the packages, dividing them into the quantities that practices need, and shipping them out. She reviewed the priority groups that will be used in distributing vaccine. The sites for H1N1 clinics will not be publicized until more vaccine is available.

The VFC program has placed 100 percent of the VFC vaccine orders they have received to date. This is 86 percent of the total doses that the state has ordered. Providers that have not ordered vaccine have been contacted to verify how much vaccine they will need. McKesson



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receives vaccines in waves over a period of several months and sends out the doses as soon as possible.

SanofiPasteur, GlaxoSmithKline and Medimmune representatives gave updates on the vaccine that has been shipped to New Mexico and the proposed schedules for provision of the remainder of the ordered doses. The vendors anticipate that they will be able to fill the prebooked orders but will not be able to fill later orders for seasonal influenza vaccine.

An administration form must be filed to receive H1N1 vaccine, which is available on the NMDOH Web site at www.immunizenm.org. These forms must be mailed back to NMDOH so that they can be entered into the NMSIIS database.

Additional H1N1 funding has been received. New Mexico has also received some ARRA stimulus recovery funds for immunization-related activities. The final approval to use this funding is being worked through. Four major projects are being targeted for receiving these funds: the school flu vaccination clinic program; the New Mexico Pharmacists Association program to provide Zostavax for New Mexicans 60 years and older who do not have insurance coverage for the vaccine; a project to support a pilot hospital to provide pertussis immunizations for the parents and caregivers of newborns; and provision of further enhancements of NMSIIS.

School Flu Vaccination Project

More than 145 schools are involved in this project throughout the state, 50 of which are in the Albuquerque metro area. Up to 60,000 students are expected to participate. Many of the clinics are taking place in October. Some of the clinics are being postponed due to delayed vaccine delivery. The project has received an additional grant from the La Tierra Sagrada Society at the University of New Mexico School of Medicine to train and match students with the schools to help vaccinate the children. Three in-person trainings were held to train more than 170 students, and a training program is also available online. To date, 50 students have signed up to help at the school clinics. This trained student workforce may also be available for future H1N1 clinics. A YouTube video was shown highlighting a clinic at Painted Sky School.

Surveillance Report

Katie Avery reported that NMDOH is now posting updates each Wednesday on H1N1 surveillance. Influenza-like illness (ILI) activity is unusually high in all regions in the last three weeks. Hospitalizations have increased in the last four weeks as reported by 70 percent of the hospitals in the state. Nine H1N1 confirmed deaths have now been reported in New Mexico. Anecdotally, no increased activity in Mexico is being reported.



Communications Overview: Materials, Web Updates

Anna Dykeman gave an update on the vaccine database. A total of 25 organizations have reported their vaccine status for this season, and eight seasonal flu clinics have been posted. H1N1 clinic reporting is available but unpopulated to date. A flu decision chart and fact sheets on live attenuated vaccine (nasal spray) and inactivated influenza vaccine were distributed.

Nurse Advice New Mexico

Connie Fiorenzio reported that the usual call volume at this stage of the influenza season is 200 to 300 calls per day; however, after the reported deaths of two children in the state, the volume increased to more than 1,000 calls daily. Nurse Advice New Mexico is making modifications to its call lines and bringing in additional staff to address the increased volume of calls. NMDOH and Nurse Advice New Mexico are working together to make Health Department clinic listings available on the NMDOH Web site.

Announcements, Wrap Up

Linda Sechovec reported on challenges in having care staff in long-term care facilities immunized. She also asked about visitation by visitors under the age of 18 or 14 in hospital-based long term care units perceived as conflicts in policies and regulations as well as priorities for health care workers in different settings. The group welcomed Harriet Robbins, NMDOH Immunization Program manager. Memorial Hospital in Las Cruces gave 4,100 vaccinations in two hours and forty-five minutes last week in its community clinic.

NMSIIS

Jennifer Arellano, NMSIIS training coordinator, gave a comprehensive overview of the enhanced NMSIIS reporting functions.

Next Meeting

The next meeting of the NMIVC was scheduled for November 11, 2009. However, because this is a federal and state holiday, some members noted that they will not be able to attend. An update on the scheduling of this meeting will be provided to members as soon as possible.