



# New Mexico Influenza Vaccine Consortium

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## New Mexico Influenza Vaccine Consortium February Meeting

February 11, 2010

10:00 a.m. to 11:30 a.m.

NMMRA Large Conference Room  
5801 Osuna Rd. NE, Suite 200

### **In Person:**

Lydia Alvarez, GlaxoSmithKline (GSK)  
Merrie Blue, New Mexico Medical Review  
Association (NMMRA)  
Sheila Conneen, NMMRA  
Anna Dykeman, NMMRA  
Carolyn Johannes, New Mexico  
Department of Health (NMDOH)  
Tammy Lopez, NMDOH  
Courtney Overton, NMMRA  
Anna Pentler, New Mexico Immunization  
Coalition (NMIC)  
Karen Sakala, New Mexico Primary Care  
Association (NMPCA)  
Cynthia Romer, NMDOH

### **By Phone:**

Katie Avery, NMDOH  
Jan Ellis, Presbyterian Health Plan  
Connie Fiorenzio, Nurse Advice  
New Mexico  
Jessica Gosling, Christus St. Vincent  
Regional Medical Center  
Kris Porcher, Lovelace Health Plan  
Kelly Reynolds, Evercare of New Mexico  
Vivian Silverman, Lovelace Medical  
Center

### **Welcome and Introductions**

- All participating members introduced themselves.

### **Immunization Program, Vaccines for Children (VFC), Adult Vaccine Status Updates:**

- All of the seasonal influenza vaccine doses that were ordered have been distributed for the year.
- Pre-ordering for next year's vaccine is complete, and this period closed much sooner than last year. The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) will communicate with NMDOH in March when ordering can start.
- The New Mexico Statewide Immunization Information System (NMSIIS) is working well. To date, 200,000 H1N1 vaccinations have been input into the system. The system has been updated to improve the process for data input.

### **School Flu Vaccination Project:**

- All of the influenza vaccination clinics with participating schools have been completed. More than 50,000 children were vaccinated. The uptake rate of 50 percent is an improvement over last season's rate of 35 percent.

- Feedback is being collected from the participating school nurses. About 60 nurses have returned questionnaires thus far, with mostly positive reactions. The negative responses mainly referred to the amount of work involved and frustration with vaccine delivery delays. More than 90 University of New Mexico Health Sciences Center (UNMHSC) students volunteered for the program. The feedback from student volunteers has been mainly positive. Negative comments were mainly about the times that the clinics were held: the times that were best for the schools to give vaccinations were mornings, the same times that the volunteers had most of their classes.
- Anna Pentler stated that NMIC will be presenting a poster at the National Immunization Conference on the training of the UNMHSC student volunteers. NMIC has also present at the Head to Toe Conference in Las Cruces and has applied to present at the National Coalition Conference.
- At the initial school H1N1 influenza vaccination clinics, uptake started at 30 percent and has tapered off because physicians are giving the vaccinations at their offices.
- Next year's program is now being discussed.

### **Surveillance Update:**

- For the weeks ending January 23 and 30 and February 3, reports from outpatient surveillance sites for influenza-like illness (ILI) hovered around 3.3 percent but have increased to 4.6 percent this week.
- As of January 30, 1,014 hospitalizations have been reported that were related to laboratory-confirmed influenza infections in New Mexico since September 2009. One case of seasonal influenza (A-H1) was reported in December 2009 in New Mexico by the Office of the Medical Examiner. Nationally, 3,700 specimens from patients with ILI have been reported to the CDC; of these, 117 cases were diagnosed as influenza A and 1.7 percent was influenza B. Reports of H1N1 cases have been sporadic and reported mainly from the southern half of the nation.
- As of January 30, 53 deaths related to laboratory-confirmed influenza infection have been reported in New Mexico.

### **Communications Overview: Materials, Web Updates:**

- The NMIVC Web site (nmivc.org) had 1,017 hits in January 2010, an increase over 600 in January 2009. The NMIVC Clinics page had 541 hits in January, also an increase over 371 from the prior year.
- To date, 34 organizations have posted their vaccine status for the season.
- There are currently no public clinics posted on the Flu Clinics page. A total of 26 have been reported since the beginning of the influenza season. Eight of these clinics were H1N1 and 18 were seasonal influenza clinics.

## **Nurse Advice New Mexico:**

- Connie Fiorenzio reported that the Nurse Advice immunization line is still seeing heightened activity, including those reporting ILI symptoms. A total of 2,205 calls were fielded January, 1,000 more calls than in January 2009. Of the total, 204 concerned availability of immunizations, particularly H1N1. The NMDOH site listing public health offices, which includes influenza vaccination clinics, have been very helpful, especially since Spanish has been added to the system. The Nurse Advice Line and CDC staff are discussing use of the syndromic surveillance system to assist the CDC in its reporting of potential adverse reactions to H1N1 vaccine.

## **Healthcare-associated infections (HAI) Healthcare Worker Influenza Program:**

- Carlene Brown, NMMRA project manager for patient safety, reviewed the history of the HAI program in New Mexico. In February 2008, the New Mexico Secretary of Health appointed members to the HAI Advisory Committee to develop methods of collecting, analyzing and disseminating information about HAI in New Mexico health care facilities. Central line-associated blood stream infections (CLABSI) and health care worker influenza vaccinations are indicators being tracked in the state. There are currently 23 facilities reporting data to the state on health care worker influenza vaccinations. Data will be collected and aggregated to be reported to stakeholders and the public in July 2010. NMMRA has been subcontracted to facilitate training in these areas. NMIVC was asked to help with these indicators.
- Tomorrow there will be a conference, “HAI Surveillance in New Mexico: Learning from the Experts,” at the Embassy Suites. Health Secretary Alfredo Vigil, MD, has been invited to speak. Speakers will address CLABSI and multidrug-resistant organisms (MDROs) and other HAI-related topics.

## **Announcements, Wrap up**

- New Mexico is having a kick-off event for National Infant Immunization Clinics on April 26 in Las Cruces.
- The Robert Wood Johnson Foundation’s paper, “Adult Immunization: Shots to Save Lives” was provided to NMIVC members.
- There will be no meeting in March. The next NMIVC meeting will be an extended debriefing and planning session on **April 14 from 10:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m.** A survey is being generated and will be going out soon to members to evaluate NMIVC’s activities this past season and what members would like to see in the future.