

NMservices Times

August 2009

Volume 1, Issue 4

Department of Health Preparing for Possible H1N1 Pandemic

Department Continues to Monitor H1N1 Cases

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www.nmhealth.org

Do you have an idea or special event that you would like to add to our newsletter? We would like to know.

Please contact your NMservices Member Services Coordinator :

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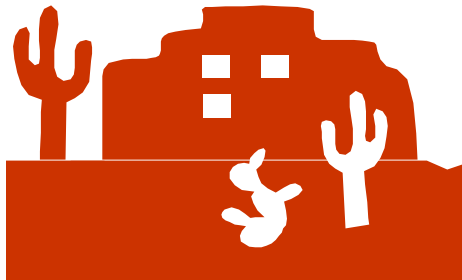
(Santa Fe) – The New Mexico Department of Health is planning for influenza mass vaccination clinics that will take place this fall to protect people against the novel H1N1 strain of influenza (earlier referred to as swine flu) and against seasonal influenza. As part of its preparations for the possibility of an H1N1 pandemic, the Department of Health is also ensuring that the State and its local partners are prepared to deal with the possibility of an increase in severity of H1N1 influenza cases, including a potential pandemic in New Mexico.

The US Centers for Disease Control and Prevention is advising states that vaccine companies are working on producing an H1N1 vaccination that may require people to get two shots in addition to the seasonal influenza vaccination. The agency has yet to tell states when to expect vaccines. CDC plans to cover the cost of the H1N1 vaccine for all states.

“We are reaching out to our healthcare and education partners throughout the state to make sure we can immunize New Mexicans from H1N1 and seasonal flu,” said Health Secretary Alfredo Vigil, MD. “We recognize that we’re asking the public to

take the time to protect themselves from both a seasonal and a new strain of influenza this year. We are trying to plan clinics statewide that are convenient for people.”

Due to the increase in the number of vaccinations, the Department will work to recruit additional volunteers for NMservices, a statewide registry of pre-credentialed, volunteer healthcare professionals available to respond to an emergency. (To volunteer, go to www.nmservices.org or call Bobbie MacKenzie at 505-476-8302.)



“We appreciate the dedication of our healthcare professionals who are willing to step up during a time of need and help us protect New Mexicans,” Dr. Vigil said.

The Department is updating its response plans if flu severity increases this year. This includes planning for storage and distribution of antivirals, establishing an inventory of

personal protective equipment, training hospitals on medical evacuation and medical surge, and developing educational materials to explain what specialized populations can do to prevent and respond to flu cases. The Department will distribute the information to child care centers, schools, long-term care facilities, prisons, families and the elderly.

The Department of Health participates in weekly conference calls with the CDC to learn the latest information about vaccine development and current tracking of the H1N1 disease.

To date, one person — a 45-year-old woman from Sierra County with end-stage liver disease — has died in the state from H1N1. Twenty-two clinics across New Mexico are reporting weekly on the percent of patient visits with influenza-like illness. So far, no clusters of H1N1 cases in institutional settings, such as long-term care centers, have been identified in New Mexico.

For more information on H1N1, go to www.nmhealth.org/FLU/seasonal/swine_flu.html.

*-Deborah Busemeyer-
Communications Director
NM Department of Health*



Disaster Preparedness For Your Pets



If you evacuate your home, **DO NOT LEAVE YOUR PETS BEHIND!** Pets most likely cannot survive on their own; and if by some remote

chance they do, you may not be able to find them when you return.

evacuation site. If your pet gets lost, his tag is his ticket home. Make sure you have a current photo of your pet for identification purposes.

- Make sure you have a secure pet carrier, leash or harness for your pet so that if he panics, he can't escape.

[Animals in Emergencies for Owners](#), a video developed by the Chemical Stockpile Emergency Preparedness Program (CSEPP) of FEMA, is intended to help pet and livestock owners prepare to protect their animals during emergencies.

-FEMA-

www.fema.gov/plan/prepare/animals.shtm

Plan for Pet Disaster Needs

- Identify shelter. For public health reasons, many emergency shelters cannot accept pets. Find out which motels and hotels in the area you plan to evacuate to allow pets, well in advance of needing them. A number of guides list hotels/motels that permit pets and could serve as a starting point. Include your local animal shelter's number in your list of emergency numbers -- they might be able to provide information concerning pets during a disaster.
- Take pet food, bottled water, medications, veterinary records, cat litter/pan, can opener, food dishes, first aid kit and other supplies with you in case they're not available later. While the sun is still shining, consider packing a "pet survival" kit which could be easily deployed if disaster hits.
- Make sure identification tags are up to date and securely fastened to your pet's collar. If possible, attach the address and/or phone number of your

NMSERVES PHILOSOPHY ON VOLUNTEERISM

The New Mexico Department of Health recognizes the importance and value of pre-screened and trained volunteers to supplement and enhance services we provide to our clients and the communities we serve. Along with employees, they are active partners in fulfilling our mission.

We are grateful to those who choose to enroll in NMserves and offer to contribute their time and talents to help build a stronger, healthier and more resilient New Mexico.

-NMserves Staff-

"Without community service, we would not have a strong quality of life. It's important to the person who serves as well as the recipient. It's the way in which we ourselves grow and develop..."

-Dr. Dorothy I. Height-

Civil and women's rights activist



The Medical Reserve Corps Introduces Virtual Training

The University of New Mexico Center for Disaster Medicine developed a training for New Mexico Medical Reserve Corps (MRC) volunteers on Second Life. Second Life is an online virtual world created by the people who visit it. It is known by many as an online social networking site, but it is increasingly being used as a medium for distance education: universities and colleges are offering classes on Second Life, agencies such as the Center for Disease Control provide health information to visitors, and people from around the world have attended virtual disaster exercises together.

“We would like to open the training up to all MRC volunteers, and we are currently looking for people who would be willing to create a Second Life account and go through the virtual training,” says Luke Esquibel, Coordinator for the Medical Reserve Corp. The training should take about 30 minutes and includes a pretest, and evaluation. If you are interested in taking the training, please contact Luke Esquibel at lesquibel@salud.unm.edu

You may also visit Second Life at <http://secondlife.com/whatis/>

The heart of a volunteer is not measured in size, but by the depth of the commitment to make a difference in the lives of others.

-- DeAnn Hollis—
Volunteer

Just for Fun - Good Ole Summer Time

Word list hidden in the diagram of letters. Seek them by reading forward, backward, up, down, and diagonally, always in a straight line.

- Beach
- Bicycling
- Camping
- Cookouts
- Hiking
- Ice cream
- Kite Flying
- Lemonade
- Parks
- Picnics
- Swimming
- Vacations
- Warm



A S H I K I N G D F H K M B
 J M O I Z C N V B O I G E M
 N S N O I T C A V Y N A Z H
 L E M A A E D T W I C C A Y
 P C B Q I U R B M H L K H G
 A E E D A N O M E L V I S R
 R I C N U R I O P I U T Z Y
 K C E J X W A I T Z U E G W
 S E G H S J C K X O B F N A
 F C D S A N M B K N V L I R
 E R I U I O P O Z X C Y P M
 C E R C M V O Z D G Y I M A
 J A S N E C I A B V U N A P
 D M F B I C Y C L I N G C E



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