



Department of Health and Human Services
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State-Supplied Influenza Vaccine Guidance

December 10, 2014

To: Maine Immunization Program Influenza Providers

Flu activity is increasing in the United States, reports of influenza-like-illness (ILI) are at or above baseline for the second time this season with widespread and high ILI activity is being reported by 6 states in the continental U.S. There is still time to vaccinate patients in order to effectively protect them from influenza. Patients will benefit from the full protection of the vaccine 7-10 days after it is administered. We recommend that you continue vaccinating to protect against influenza this year.

To ensure that vaccine is available for all Maine people who are seeking it, please use the following as guidelines:

Health Care Providers **should** use state-supplied vaccine for patients in the following circumstances:

- The patient is a child ages 6 months through 18 years;
- The patient is pregnant or the partner of a pregnant patient;
- The patient's insurance does not cover vaccinations;
- The patient is uninsured.

Health Care Providers **may** use state-supplied vaccine for other patients only if:

- The Health Care Provider has already vaccinated all eligible patients listed above and has excess state-supplied vaccine; and
- Privately purchased vaccine is not available.

Please remember that providers may not charge for state-supplied vaccine. It is reasonable and allowable to charge an administration fee for administration of state-supplied vaccine in some circumstances provided that:

1. MaineCare-eligible children are not charged an out of pocket administration fee;
2. Administration fees do not exceed the regional Medicare maximum; and
3. No one is denied vaccine because of their inability to pay an administration fee.

If you find that you are in need of additional vaccine please contact the Maine Immunization Program, at 207-287-3746 or 1-800-867-4775, we will do our best to help assist in accommodating your need.

Sincerely,

Tonya Philbrick, BS, NCMA
Director, Maine Immunization Program