

**Date:** November 4, 2009

**To:** Alberta Health Services – Healthcare Workers

**From:** Todd Gilchrist, Vice President, Workplace Health, Safety & Employee Wellness

**Re:** Health Care Worker H1N1 Immunization Program Resumption – Revision 2

The Alberta Health Services (AHS) Health Care Worker Immunization Program was temporarily suspended last week due to a national reduction in the supply of H1N1 vaccine. AHS WHS&EW have planned for the resumption of the Health Care Worker Immunization Program across the province commencing **Wednesday, November 4, 2009**.

Health care workers are, for the purposes of this program, defined to include all workers in the employ of AHS and its wholly owned subsidiaries; those contracted by AHS or working in facilities contracted by AHS; professional staff appointed to AHS; and those providing medical care in community settings.

This includes workers in:

- Acute Care Facilities
- Outpatient Clinics
- Continuing Care (Long Term Care, Home Care, Supportive Living & Designated Assisted Living)
- Community physicians and their office staff
- Public Health Clinics
- Emergency Medical Services
- Where someone with, or potentially with pandemic (H1N1) may present or be cared for

The revised program will employ a phased approach. **Phase 1 will focus on the delivery of vaccine to health care workers that provide direct hands on care and/or face-to-face interaction with patients.** Phase 1 will remain in effect until the national reduction in supply is resolved, at which time we will again focus on vaccinating all health care workers.

**Phase 2 of the program will focus on the health care workers and support staff that have limited or no direct hands on care or face-to-face interaction with patients.** Communication on our coordinated move from Phase 1 to Phase 2 will be issued out of the AHS ECC.

Attached you will find the Phase 1 & 2 definitions and list of positions/areas considered in each Phase. Please note that the attached position lists are to be used as a guide and are not intended to be an all inclusive listing of all positions. **Starting Wednesday, November 4, 2009, Pandemic (H1N1) 2009 vaccine will only be offered to health care workers who meet the definitions contained in Phase 1. Phase 1 includes only those health care workers that provide direct hands on care and/or face-to-face interaction with patients.**

Scheduling and communication of clinic locations and times is conducted at the Zone level. Watch for communication from your local ZEOC and reference the AHS Health Care Professionals Website for information on clinics in your area.

Health Care Workers will be required to show identification when presenting at the immunization clinics. **Only the following identification will be deemed acceptable:**

- AHS Identification Card;

- AHS Employee Number;
- **Contract Provider Identification Card;**
- Professional Affiliation Card;
- Community Physician – confirmation on letter head or prescription pad including the name(s) of community office/clinic staff to be vaccinated.

Zone/Site Management (VP level and up) along with the Zone WHS&EW Lead may request to have an area or position added to the **Phase 1** category. The request must be in writing and submitted to Todd Gilchrist, VP WHS&EW for consideration and approval at [todd.gilchrist@albertahealthservices.ca](mailto:todd.gilchrist@albertahealthservices.ca).

Health Care Workers are the backbone of the health care system in Alberta. We are working diligently to provide vaccination for all health care workers as soon as possible. We thank you in advance for your support and patience and ask that you only present to the immunization clinics if you meet the **Phase 1 Criteria**. Your cooperation is critical to the successful facilitation of our Health Care Worker Immunization Program.

## Listing of Prioritized Healthcare Workers to receive the H1N1 Vaccination

Phase 1	Phase 2
Definition: All healthcare workers or support staff providing <b>direct</b> hands-on patient care or face-to-face interaction.	Definition: All healthcare workers or support staff providing <b>limited or no</b> direct hands-on patient care or face-to-face interaction.
Acute Care Units Staff (Medicine and Surgery Programs)	AHS Administration Staff
<b>Admitting Clerks</b>	<b>Allied Health Professional (Community/Non-Acute)</b>
<b>Allied Health Professionals (Acute Care)</b>	Biomedical Engineering Staff
Clinical Educators	<b>Capital Planning and Supply Chain Management</b>
Community Physician Office/Clinic Staff (with direct patient contact)	Central Sterile Processing
Critical Care Staff	Community Mental Health Clinic Staff
Dentists in Hospital Based Practice	Contract, Purchasing & Supply Management Staff
Diagnostic Imaging Technicians	<b>Dentists in Community Based/Private Practice</b>
Environmental Services (Inpatient Room Housekeepers)	Diagnostic Imaging (except Technicians)
<b>Emergency Services/Urgent Care</b>	Environmental Services (except Inpatient Room Housekeepers)
EMS(Paramedics/EMTs)	Finance
<b>Food &amp; Nutrition Services (Inpatient Room Servers)</b>	<b>Food &amp; Nutrition Services (except Inpatient Room Servers)</b>
Immunization Clinic Workers	Health Records Staff
<b>Infection Prevention and Control Practitioners</b>	Human Resources Staff
Influenza Assessment Centre Staff	Information Management/Information Technology Staff
Laboratory (workers manipulating influenza samples)	Laboratory Staff (except those manipulating immunization samples)
<b>Continuing Care Staff (Long Term Care, Home Care, Supportive Living &amp; Designated Assisted Living)</b>	Linen Services Staff
LPNs/NAs	Maintenance and Facilities Staff
Mental Health (Acute) Staff	Non-OHN staff in AHS WHS&EW
Morgue staff	Physicians/Residents (working in the area defined above)
Negative Pressure Rooms staff	Professional Practice and Development (non-Educators) Staff
Nurses and receptionists working in Community physician's offices (will require a note from the physician)	Public Health Inspectors
OHNs (AHS WHS&EW)	Research/Experimental Oncology
Operative Services/Recovery Room Staff	Volunteers (not in IAC or Immunization Clinics)
<b>Spiritual</b> Care Staff	All other Healthcare Workers not listed in Phase 1
Pharmacy Tech's/Pharmacists	
Physicians/Residents	
Porters	
Protective Services Staff	
<b>Psychologists in Hospital Based Practice</b>	
Registered Nurses/Nursing Students	
Respiratory Therapists	
Social Workers	
Speech Language Pathologists	
Workers in declared outbreak areas	
Workers who obtain blood work	