



HIDA Summary: Recent CDC Guidance for H1N1 Influenza Vaccine Distribution

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The document is presented by the Health Industry Distributors Association and the Flu Vaccine Business Practices Initiative (www.FluSupplyNew.com). The information presented is collected from the following sources:

- The National Influenza Vaccine Summit – Aug. 18, 2009 Conference Call
- *H1N1 Vaccine Distribution*. HDMA H1N1 Influenza Preparedness Planning Workshop. Dr. Tom Shimabukuro, Immunization Services Division of the National Center for Immunization and Respiratory Diseases, U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. Aug. 20, 2009.
- *CDC Novel H1N1 Vaccination Planning Q&A*. U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. Aug. 10, 2009. [Http://www.cdc.gov/h1n1flu/vaccination/statelocal/qa.htm](http://www.cdc.gov/h1n1flu/vaccination/statelocal/qa.htm)
- The U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention at www.cdc.gov/flu

Note: H1N1 information and guidance is evolving and may be updated on a frequent basis. For the most current information, visit the CDC at www.cdc.gov/flu or call them at 1-800-232-4636. Information on flu vaccine distribution and the flu vaccine supply chain can also be found at www.FluSupplyNews.com, by contacting the Health Industry Distributors Association at 703-838-6111 or by visiting www.HIDA.org.

Background

Novel H1N1 (also referred to as “swine flu”) is a new influenza virus causing illness in people. This new virus was first detected in people in the United States in April 2009. The virus is spreading from person-to-person worldwide, probably in much the same way that regular seasonal influenza viruses spread. On June 11, 2009, the [World Health Organization](#) (WHO) signaled that a pandemic of novel H1N1 flu was underway.

As time passes, health experts are acquiring new information about the H1N1 virus and officials are updating their preparedness plans and strategies. As of August 2009, the CDC reports that:

- The H1N1 epidemiologic picture indicates an age distribution that is different from seasonal flu in that H1N1 flu has caused greater disease burden in people younger than 25 years of age versus older people. To date, the CDC states that the disease has not been severe and economic/social disruption may not be as extensive as first thought during initial planning projections. Health officials are watching to see how the H1N1 virus may evolve during the upcoming 2009-2010 flu season.
- There is the potential for confluence seasonal and pandemic flu vaccination during the 2009-2010 influenza season.
- The magnitude of and H1N1 vaccination campaign in contrast to a seasonal influenza vaccination campaign is significant:

H1N1 Flu Campaign

- ~600 million doses (assumes 2 doses per person)

compares with...

Seasonal Flu Campaign

- ~150 million doses annually for all childhood vaccination
- ~115 million doses maximum for annual flu vaccination

Source: CDC

How Centralized H1N1 Vaccine Distribution Will Work

H1N1 vaccine will be made available to providers and patients for free.

The government will utilize a centralized distribution system (similar to the current seasonal Vaccines for Children or VFC program). This centralized, VFC-type distribution infrastructure will be used for the duration of the H1N1 campaign, according to current reports from CDC officials. However, new distribution centers and products will be included in the H1N1 process (ex. ancillary products and supplies related to flu vaccine administration such as needles, syringes, etc.).

Several key steps will be involved in centralized distribution:

1. Registered H1N1 providers will request vaccine through their state health departments. **Each state will get a pro rata allocation of vaccine and each state will designate/allocate that vaccine accordingly.**

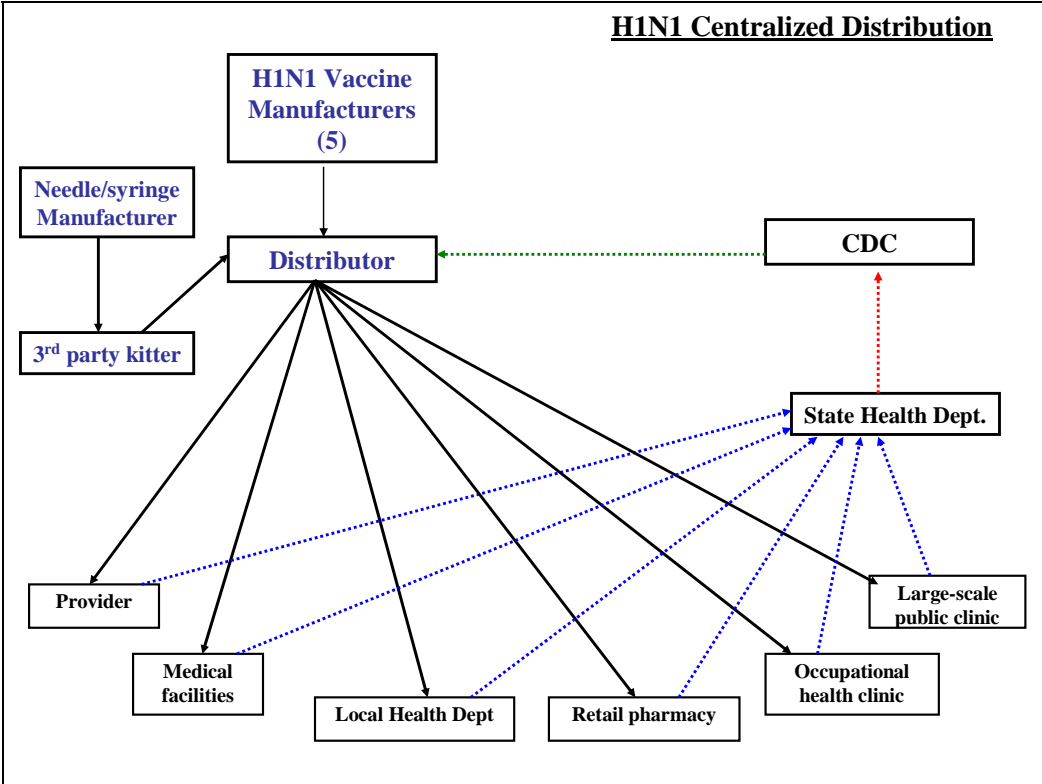
Because the minimum shipment size for H1N1 vaccine (100 doses) may exceed the space that some providers have available, the states may determine a storage location to warehouse the vaccine so that it can be parsed out to smaller providers in an order size that they can accommodate.

[Note: Providers must be enrolled/registered with their state health departments to participate in H1N1 vaccination administration. Every state will post registration information online and this data will also be consolidated by the CDC.]

2. State health departments will serve as a clearinghouse for vaccine orders and will then forward those orders to the CDC.
3. The CDC will send vaccine orders and ship-to locations to its central distributor, which will funnel and track all H1N1 orders.
4. The central distributor will send vaccine (and related kits of ancillary supplies) to CDC-specified sites/providers.

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The diagram below illustrates how centralized H1N1 distribution will work:



Data Source: *H1N1 Vaccine Distribution*. Shimabukuro, Tom. U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. Aug. 20, 2009.