



From: NJLM - Municipal Clerks [mailto:njlm-clerks@cityconnections.com]
Sent: Wednesday, October 28, 2009 4:13 PM
To: Lashway, Lisa
Subject: Two Mayors Ltrs

LEAGUE ALERT

Municipal Clerk: Please forward to Mayor and Governing Body.

October 28, 2009

**Re: I Important Conference Sessions Unique
 'Basic Training' Opportunity**

Re: II H1N1 Update

RE: I. Important Conference Sessions Unique 'Basic Training' Opportunity

Dear Mayor:

An annual highlight of the Conference is our Wednesday afternoon tandem session for elected officials. As you will see below, in a little over three hours, this session will introduce newly elected officials to all the basic State statutes and regulations that will serve to frame their service on the local level. And it will remind veteran officials of these laws and rules, and bring them up-to-date on the latest changes.

The speakers are recognized experts, with years of experience and a proven track record as educators of and advisors to New Jersey local elected officials. In many cases you will be hearing from and asking questions of people who were involved in the drafting of the laws and regulations they will describe.

Date	Time	Session	Room
Wednesday, November 18th			
	2:00 p.m.	Mayors and Council Members: Budget, Procurement and Finance in Purchasing Issues	Room 322
	3:45 p.m.	Mayors and Council Members: Ethics, Open Public Meetings and Open Public Records and Civility in Public Discourse	Room 322

We hope you will be able to take advantage of this special opportunity. For more information on these and other sessions, visit the League's website at www.njslom.com.

Also, be sure to read more about these sessions and the entire Conference in the November editions of our magazine, *New Jersey Municipalities*.

Very truly yours,

William G. Dressel, Jr.
Executive Director

RE: II. H1N1 Update

Dear Mayor:

Please see the below press release from the Department of Health and Senior Services.

Statement from Department of Health and Senior Services Commissioner Heather Howard on H1N1 Influenza

New Jersey continues to maintain open lines of communication with the public to ensure they have access to the most recent information on H1N1 influenza. There are a number of tools that New Jerseyans can use to stay informed, and simple everyday actions we can take to stay healthy.

New Jersey opened an **H1N1 Information Hotline - 1-866-321-9571** earlier this month. Because of increased interest, call center hours will be extended to weekends. This toll-free public hotline will now be accessible seven days a week from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. Call center operators will be able to provide general information about H1N1, vaccine safety and availability information, symptoms of H1N1 and flu preventive measures. Since opening the hotline, the Department has answered more than 7,730 calls from the public.

New Jersey's flu activity has moved from regional to widespread. This means that H1N1 flu is present in a majority of counties throughout the state. While any type of flu is cause for concern, it is not cause for alarm. I urge all residents to stay informed and take simple preventive measures to stay healthy.

I also want to take this opportunity to provide an update on vaccine production and availability, vaccine safety, and H1N1 target populations.

New Jersey's H1N1 Public Information Initiative

In an effort to provide critical information to the public, New Jersey created a Find a Flu Shot Locator, an H1N1 Resource Center website, and a toll-free hotline. These resources will help ensure residents and health care providers have access to information and can

obtain accurate responses to their questions.

The State established an **H1N1 Resource Center website** that includes important information and timely updates on H1N1 flu in New Jersey. The website can be found at www.nj.gov/health. Additional information on H1N1 flu is available at the federal website, www.flu.gov.

The **Find a Flu Shot Locator** can be accessed at www.nj.gov/health. Residents can find where H1N1 flu clinics are being held throughout the State. Not all clinics are included on this list because some are being offered to very specific target populations, such as school-based efforts and private doctors' offices. Public flu clinics will be posted on this site as soon as they are scheduled. Additional public health clinics will be scheduled as more vaccine arrives.

H1N1 Vaccine Production and Availability

Many residents are concerned with the slower than expected arrival of H1N1 vaccine. Please understand that the H1N1 vaccine, like other vaccines, is produced by manufacturers and distributed by the federal government. We will do all that we can to ensure orders are placed in a timely manner and that the vaccine is getting to the target populations.

As of October 28, 2009, New Jersey ordered approximately 1.3 million doses of vaccine and more than 567,000 doses have been distributed to nearly 891 providers statewide. Shipments of the H1N1 vaccine will continue to arrive throughout this month and into the winter.

The federal government has assured us that ultimately there will be enough vaccine for everyone who wants it. However, with only limited vaccine available at this time, it is important to first target the individuals most susceptible to H1N1 flu.

H1N1 Target Populations

It is recommended that certain target groups be among the first to receive the H1N1 vaccine as it becomes available. These groups include:

- Pregnant women
- Household contacts and caregivers for children younger than 6 months of age
- Healthcare and emergency medical services personnel
- All people from 6 months through 24 years of age
- Persons aged 25 through 64 years who have health conditions associated with higher risk of medical complications from influenza
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H1N1 Vaccine is Safe

Many parents have raised concerns about the safety of the new H1N1 vaccine. All vaccines, including the H1N1 vaccine, are held to the highest standard of safety and are continually monitored. Each year, millions of Americans safely receive seasonal flu vaccines. The H1N1 vaccine is made the same way as seasonal flu vaccine by the same manufacturers that make seasonal flu vaccine. In addition, the National Institute of Health (NIH) has conducted clinical trials for the H1N1 vaccine. The vaccine has been tested and safely used in children, pregnant woman, and adults.

What You Can Do to Stay Healthy

- Cover your nose and mouth with a tissue when you cough or sneeze.
- Wash your hands often with soap and water, especially after you cough or sneeze. Alcohol-based hands cleaners are also effective.
- Avoid touching your eyes, nose or mouth. Germs spread that way.
- Stay home if you are sick.

Symptoms of H1N1

The symptoms of H1N1 flu include fever, cough, sore throat, body aches, headaches, chills and fatigue. Some people have reported diarrhea and vomiting. You should immediately call your physician if your child is exhibiting the above symptoms.

Very truly yours,

William G. Dressel, Jr. Executive Director NJLM

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