



STATE OF CONNECTICUT
DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC HEALTH

OFFICE OF COMMISSIONER

September 30, 2009

Peter S. Carozza, Jr.
President
Uniformed Professional Fire Fighters Association of Connecticut
30 Sherman Street
West Hartford, CT 06110

Re: H1N1 vaccine availability

Dear President Carozza:

I am following up on your letter of September 28, 2009 to Commissioner Galvin regarding H1N1 vaccine for our state fire fighters. Let me begin by reinforcing the appreciation of our department for the great service to the community provided by our fire fighters statewide.

Fire fighters in our state who provide direct patient care are considered part of the emergency medical services system. The guidance provided with the September 10, 2009 memo added clarity to the issue. Due to vaccine production schedule not all of our states allocation of H1N1 vaccine will be available in the early weeks of October.

As I am sure you are aware the priority for the early rounds of vaccine are children and pregnant women. We know that our early allocation will not provide complete coverage for the nearly 900,000 school age children we have in our state.

As additional vaccine become available, we will work with our local health department partners to make vaccine available to all first responders. We encourage all first responders to follow their personal protective equipment training and agency policies to reduce the risk of exposure.

If you need additional information please feel free to call me.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Leonard H. Guercia, Jr.".

Leonard H. Guercia, Jr.
Operations Branch Chief

