



STATE OF CONNECTICUT

DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC HEALTH

Date: September 10, 2009

To: All Connecticut Chiefs of Service
Fire, Police and Emergency Medical Services

From: J. Robert Galvin, M.D., M.P.H., M.B.A., Commissioner

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be "J. Robert Galvin", written over a horizontal line.

Re: H1N1 Vaccine Distribution

Based on all recent publicity regarding the H1N1 Vaccine, this memo will serve as clarification to all First Responders on how the Connecticut Department of Public Health (DPH) will allocate the initial rounds of the H1N1 Vaccine availability. Connecticut will be following the Advisory Council on Immunization Practices guidance published on July 29, 2009. That guidance specifies priority groups to be vaccinated during the initial phases of vaccine distribution, which will involve a limited supply of vaccine. This guidance may be viewed at the following web site: <http://www.cdc.gov/h1n1flu/vaccination/acip.htm>.

Emergency Medical Service Providers have been identified as a priority group for vaccination during the initial phases of vaccine distribution. Pursuant to CDC guidance, EMS in Connecticut is defined as providers whose **primary** responsibility is direct patient care and transport for the sick and injured. Providers who occasionally provide direct patient care or direct patient care is a secondary role for them are not included in this definition. The Department of Public Health is working closely with each of State's 31 Sponsor Hospitals on determining the numbers of personnel that meet this criterion.

It is important to emphasize these decisions are based on the limited initial allocation of vaccine and we must prioritize those who are at greatest risk for infection. The Department will keep the first responder community informed as additional vaccine becomes available. In the meantime, we encourage first responders to protect themselves from the spread of H1N1 as they do for all types of communicable disease by closely following their agency's Personal Protective Equipment Policies and Regulations that are designed to provide maximum worker safety. Specific information on H1N1 precautions can be found at ctfluwatch.gov.

We thank you for your patience and understanding as our State and the rest of the nation prepares for the fall flu season.

LHG:td



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