

# *Administrator Alert*

*Policy updates & rule clarifications for Assisted Living,  
Residential Care & Nursing Facilities*

Office of Licensing & Quality — Oregon Department of Human Services

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*July 30, 2009*

***Title: H1N1 Update***

***Action required: See attached***

Reference: **Flu Update #1**

Attached is the latest fact sheet from Public Health on the Pandemic H1N1 Flu. Oregon is continuing to see H1N1 activity in the state and it is anticipated that the fall and winter will be a very active flu season. It is important that facilities start planning now for the likely increased activity. In order to assist you to be as prepared as possible, SPD will be sending you a short series of tips and updates. Also attached is a poster developed by Public Health that you may wish to post.

## Flu Vaccines

There will likely be two different vaccines offered this fall: the seasonal flu vaccine and a new H1N1 vaccine.

- Seasonal flu vaccine. This vaccine will target the anticipated strains of flu that usually circulate. Distribution will likely be through the usual channels but may be available early. Because absenteeism could be very high with the H1N1 virus, it is especially important that staff are encouraged to get their seasonal flu shots. People should be especially diligent this year in obtaining vaccinations for the clients who reside in the facility. If seasonal flu vaccine is available early, it would be good to immunize early. It will protect the person throughout the entire year for the seasonal flu.



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- Novel H1N1 vaccine. This vaccine will only target the H1N1 virus. The priority populations for this new vaccine and the distribution system are being planned now. Because this virus appears to infect children and young adults at such high rates, it is likely that the priority population for vaccine will be different than usual. It will also likely be distributed in a different manner. Your local Public Health Department will play a key role this fall and will have the most up-to-date information. Now is the time to make those contacts if you haven't already.

### **Recommendations:**

1. Make sure that all clients are offered a seasonal flu shot as soon as available.
2. If you don't already, consider your policies and procedures to help ensure that as many as possible staff get their seasonal flu shot.
3. Make contact now with your local Health Department. Know how they plan to communicate information about flu and vaccines to your community.
4. Stay in contact this fall with your local Health Department and your distributors.

