



## **Immunizing Pharmacists Needed for H1N1 Vaccine Program in Tennessee**

The Tennessee Pharmacists Association is working very closely with the Tennessee Department of Health, specifically with Kelly Moore, M.D., M.P.H., Medical Director, Tennessee Immunization Program, to co-ordinate the involvement of Tennessee's immunizing pharmacists in the H1N1 Pandemic Influenza Vaccine program in our state.

Dr. Moore has requested that TPA disseminate the following information about how interested pharmacists can sign up with the Department of Health Immunization Program to receive information and to be eligible to order H1N1 vaccine and supplies when available. The Federal Government plans to provide the vaccine and supplies needed for administration at no cost to those private sector providers who participate in the program. Private sector providers will be allowed to charge an administration fee; however, the conditions of the federal program have not been finalized.

Pharmacists who sign up are under no obligation to participate, but those who sign up will be provided with H1N1 vaccine information updates and will be given an opportunity to decide, when vaccine is available, if they are interested in participating in the vaccination endeavor.

All pharmacist immunizers are encouraged to go to the Tennessee Web Immunization System (TWIS) site to sign up as soon as possible.

The number of registrants on the TWIS site will not be limited. However, it is estimated only 1,000 total enrollees will be eligible to directly order the H1N1 vaccine. Others may be able to obtain vaccine through other providers, such as their local state health departments.

Because the Tennessee Department of Health has limited staff dedicated to the Tennessee Immunization Program, the staff for the program has asked TPA to serve as the source for information for Tennessee pharmacists regarding this effort. Therefore, if you have questions regarding this program, please contact Micah Cost, TPA Director of Professional Affairs, via email at [micah@tn-pharm.org](mailto:micah@tn-pharm.org) or by phone at 615-256-3023.

This is a chance for Tennessee pharmacists to participate as health care providers in an important public health program. TPA urges eligible pharmacists to enroll through the TWIS web portal as soon as possible. For details, see the Notice to Immunization Providers reprinted on the following page (also available as a stand-alone document on the TPA website at [www.tnpharm.org/Notice\\_Pan\\_Flu\\_Vaccine\\_Pre-reg\\_8-6-09.pdf](http://www.tnpharm.org/Notice_Pan_Flu_Vaccine_Pre-reg_8-6-09.pdf)).

Please contact TPA if you need further information or assistance.

	<b>PROVIDING INDEPENDENT PHARMACY WITH THE RESOURCES TO STAY COMPETITIVE</b>		



STATE OF TENNESSEE  
**DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH**  
IMMUNIZATION PROGRAM  
CORDELL HULL BUILDING, 1<sup>ST</sup> FLOOR  
425 - 5TH AVENUE NORTH  
NASHVILLE, TENNESSEE 37243

**Notice to Immunization Providers**

Date: August 6, 2009

From: Kelly L. Moore, MD, MPH, Medical Director, Tennessee Immunization Program

Re: Pre-registration for Healthcare Facilities Interested in Receiving and Administering the 2009 H1N1 Pandemic Influenza Vaccine

This fall, to protect the public from the 2009 H1N1 pandemic influenza virus, the federal government will provide states with pandemic vaccine and supplies (needles, syringes, sharps containers, alcohol swabs) at no cost to states. The federal government estimates that approximately 120 million doses will be available over the first month of shipping and that enough vaccine will be distributed to fully meet US demand in less than 6 months. The Tennessee Department of Health (TDH) will be responsible for directing the shipment of the vaccine and supplies in the State of Tennessee.

TDH is extending the opportunity to receive and administer pandemic vaccine to all interested immunizing healthcare providers (including hospitals, clinics, pharmacists and community vaccinators). Private sector providers will be permitted to charge an administration fee; however, the conditions of this federal program have not been finalized. TDH is offering the opportunity for health care providers interested in having vaccine and supplies shipped to their facility to pre-register to receive information about the program at no cost and with no obligation.

Pre-registered facility representatives will receive email updates about the pandemic vaccination program and important information to prepare their facility to store, handle and administer pandemic vaccine properly. Pre-registered points of contact for the facilities will ultimately receive the federal pandemic vaccine provider agreement and receive instructions for ordering vaccine, once finalized. Only providers who ultimately place orders and meet the conditions of the provider agreement will receive vaccine. Because the federal program is under development, TDH cannot guarantee that all pre-registered providers will receive vaccine directly shipped to them or the timing or size of shipments. Vaccine is expected to begin shipping through this mechanism by mid-October.

Pre-registration is a two-step process: First, register for access to the Tennessee Web Immunization System (TWIS) by going to <http://twis.tn.gov/> and selecting **Online Registration Request**. Once registered, or if you are already a registered TWIS user, you can log on to TWIS and go to the online pre-registration form for pandemic vaccine. Please note that an individual facility should only register one time. You may contact the TWIS Help Desk at 1-888-TWIS-HELP (894-7435) if you need any assistance with the registration process.