

Cathy Cooper  

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**Authorized Signature**

**Number:** SPD-AR-10-002  
**Issue Date:** 1/15/2010

**Topic:** Other

**Due Date:**

**Subject:** H1N1 Vaccination

**Applies to (check all that apply):**

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|--|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> All DHS employees                 | <input type="checkbox"/> County Mental Health Directors                  |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Area Agencies on Aging | <input type="checkbox"/> Health Services                                 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Children, Adults and Families     | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Seniors and People with Disabilities |
| <input type="checkbox"/> County DD Program Managers        | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Other (please specify): PH Directors |

**Action Required:**

Please make sure that everyone who wants the H1N1 vaccine gets immunized. Please share this information with your local providers, your clients, and your staff.

**Reason for Action:**

Everyone may be getting tired of hearing about H1N1. However, history shows us that this nasty virus may not be done with us. Please read the following info (and at the end is a very funny video):

Even though the flu has not hit as hard as many feared it would, it is still a big risk. Now is not the time to let your guard down. Please make sure that everyone who wants the H1N1 vaccine gets immunized. Now is the opportunity to do that. It is not too late. There are several important points to consider when deciding about vaccination:

- People with disabilities have died at a higher rate from H1N1 infection. Although H1N1 has significantly affected children and young adults, those over 65 years of age have also had bad consequences from H1N1. The older age range has the highest death rate of any age range. That is not true for the rate of hospitalization. It appears that seniors have some natural protection from H1N1, but if they catch it, they are at higher risk of death.
- Although there has been a decline in H1N1 over the past several weeks, there remains ongoing flu activity, including people hospitalized and even ongoing deaths.
- No one can predict the future, but in both the 1918 and 1957 flu pandemics, there was a resurgence of flu following the initial wave of illness that was more

severe and deadly than the first one.

- Both forms of the flu vaccine have proven to be remarkably safe with millions of doses now delivered.
- The supply of vaccine is now matching demand. Vaccinations are now available to anyone who wants it.

Please take the time now to review who has been immunized for both H1N1 and seasonal flu and who should still be immunized. Your local doctor's office may have the vaccine. It is also likely available at local pharmacies. Both Medicare and Medicaid cover the cost of administering the vaccine. People without insurance can get it through their local health department.

To find a flu vaccine near you, call 1-800-978-3040 or visit [www.flu.oregon.gov](http://www.flu.oregon.gov). The only way to ensure that H1N1 does not cause significant problems later this year is enough people become vaccinated.

**Thank you to everyone who has gotten their vaccine and to those who have helped others get theirs.**

The video promised above is the "5th Guy" about those unnamed individuals who don't wash their hands in the restroom. It also has funny videos about coming to work sick. You can reach the link on the left-hand side of the SPD H1N1 web page. Click on "the 5th guy" below the "Wash em" button.

<http://www.dhs.state.or.us/spd/tools/preparedness/index.htm>

**Field/Stakeholder review:**     Yes     No

**If yes, reviewed by:**    Program Managers

*If you have any questions about this action request, contact:*

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