

General Provider Communication

Maricopa County Regional Behavioral Health Authority
Magellan Health Services of Arizona, Inc.

Dear Provider,

The flu season is heating up in Arizona with 2,263 confirmed cases of H1N1 flu reported as of October 3. Children 18 years old and younger have made up the majority of cases, and 30 deaths have been confirmed due to H1N1. Weekly reports of new cases continue to grow at an alarming rate.

As of last week, Maricopa County received 39,000 doses of Flu Mist, which it is distributing directly to hospital health-care workers and emergency medical services workers. Approximately 20,000 doses of injectable vaccine should arrive in Maricopa County this week, and these doses will be prioritized for those representing the highest risk of severe disease or at risk of spreading disease to high-risk persons, including:

- Children six months through four years old
- Children five through 18 years of age who have chronic medical conditions
- Pregnant women
- Caregivers of children under six months of age
- Health-care and emergency medical services personnel with direct patient contact.

As the supply increases, the vaccine will be sent to private providers, pharmacies and Women Infants and Children (WIC) sites and immunization clinics. Plans are also in place to complete the vaccination of health-care workers and to supply private immunization providers with the vaccine.

Providers who want to apply for H1N1 vaccine should check the following link: <http://azdhs.gov/flu/h1n1/vaccine.htm>. Due to the current limited supply and increasing demand, providers may be unable to get it for a few weeks.

Current information on the H1N1 virus, including tips and resources for prevention, statistics on its spread and updates on availability of vaccines can be found on the following sites:

- Centers for Disease Control: http://www.cdc.gov/h1n1flu/general_info.htm (updated daily)
- Arizona Department of Health Services: <http://azdhs.gov/flu/h1n1/index.htm> (updated weekly)
- Maricopa County: http://www.maricopa.gov/public_health/
- Community Information and Referral for (flu shot locations): www.fluaz.org or by calling 1-877-764-2670.

For additional information about recommendations for vaccinations, access the [Summary of ADHS/CDC H1N1 Recommendations by Group and Setting document](#).

What you should do

Combating the H1N1 flu virus will take extra diligence. Magellan is advising providers who

encounter service recipients identifying or showing flu-like symptoms to consider using onsite "sick rooms," offering facemasks or taking advantage of teleconferencing capabilities. In addition, providers should consider restricting travel, implementing work-at-home capabilities, providing flu shot clinics for their employees and increasing facility cleaning (i.e., door knobs, phones, light switches, microwaves, etc.).

Please note: All providers are required to have Business Continuity Plans and H1N1 Plans for their facilities. If you do not have such plans, [click here](#) to access a template for a Pandemic Performance Plan. Those with existing plans are encouraged to review the template as well to ensure all elements are included in their plans. Beginning October 26, 2009, Magellan will outreach to providers (based on population served and overall capacity) to review and validate their plans.

If you have questions about preparing your plan, please contact Sarah Maloney at (602) 652-5930 or SMaloney@MagellanHealth.com.

