

URGENT MESSAGE REGARDING H1N1 VACCINE

DO NOT REFUSE YOUR VACCINE SHIPMENT!!

(Regardless of your current need or available storage)

Larger quantities of H1N1 vaccine are becoming available for distribution. Due to the decline in the prevalence of disease as well as the holiday season, vaccine administration in New York has lagged. Some providers have refused H1N1 vaccine shipments or have accepted it and have no available storage. Many local health departments are at capacity for storage as well. This document addresses the steps to be taken to ensure appropriate storage/redistribution of vaccine.

The most important message is that providers **should NOT refuse their vaccine delivery.**

It is important that New York State continue to have available an adequate supply of H1N1 vaccine. Although both the disease as well as demand for vaccine may appear to be waning, we are still in the middle of the traditional influenza season.

With the significant increase in the amount of vaccine that will be shipped over the first few weeks in January, the NYSDOH has established a process for the redistribution and storage of H1N1 vaccine throughout the State to ensure vaccine safety and viability.

A key component of this plan involves the Local Health Department's (LHD) continued assistance with the redistribution and potentially temporary storage of H1N1 vaccine. The LHD will serve as the primary point of contact for providers.

Steps for the Local Provider (including all H1N1 PINs EXCEPT LHD and State/Federal Agencies):

The local provider will contact the LHD and advise that they are in possession of vaccine that cannot safely be stored.

The LHD will facilitate the redistribution or storage of the vaccine and work out arrangements with you.

Thank you for your assistance with assuring that New York's allotment of vaccine stays in New York.