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H1N1 Vaccine Plan

11/30/09

It has been a few weeks since our last H1N1 update but that has not been because of a lack of activity. H1N1 as a disease has slowed down significantly both locally and nationally. The number of states reporting pandemic level numbers of cases has dropped from 45 to 32 and locally, the number of new cases that we have diagnosed in the office has dropped significantly. The Centers for Disease Control continues to consider H1N1 a serious disease with the potential for new outbreaks at any time. But as time has passed, there is now more information about the spread and about the numbers. The CDC estimates that the numbers of actual cases are underestimated greatly. According to a report released last week, it is estimated that there are 79 unreported cases for every 1 reported case. This means that the actual number of cases in children under 17 years (using the mid level or conservative approach) are 8 million clinically infected patients with 36,000 hospitalizations and 540 deaths. The children who have died have been some of the most vulnerable patients, many with severe neurological problems and respiratory disease. The CDC (and our office) continues to strongly recommend vaccination in all children under 17 years of age. Even those who have had what appears to be H1N1 disease (respiratory symptoms and a positive influenza A rapid test) should be vaccinated so that they can expect to get permanent immunity that may protect them when they are elderly.

As for vaccine distribution, we have watched with significant frustration as we, at Senders Pediatrics, and many of our colleagues in primary care have been shut out of the vaccine distribution system while vaccine was available in day care centers, in high school vaccination programs and even in some local pharmacies. After multiple phone calls on many different levels, we are grateful for the intercession of State Representative Josh Mandel (R17) whose district includes Lyndhurst, Mayfield Heights and Solon. His office was able to set up a conference call with Roger Suppes R.S., Chief of the Division of Prevention for the Ohio Department of Health who helped explain the policy of the state on this matter. Their efforts were focused on mass distribution through the 131 local health departments (Cuyahoga Department of Health is one such unit). Cuyahoga Department of Health was then responsible for distribution according to its own internal recommendations and chose to distribute vaccine through mass programs at schools and day cares. Pediatricians and Obstetricians, although responsible for the highest risk patients, were left out of this phase. We are thrilled that many of you took advantage of the mass programs locally at Brush and Orange High Schools and at some of the schools in the Shaker School District. Our argument to Mr. Suppes was that we have access to many of the highest risk patients including those under 17, those with asthma and those with other breathing problems. Mr. Suppes explained that primary care physicians are part of the second tier distribution system (the third and final tier will be pharmacies).

We are excited to have received 1000 doses of H1N1 vaccine including the injected form for children under 2 years and children with respiratory problems as well as the mist form for all other patients. We will once again be conducting mass clinics on Thursday, December 3 (6:30-9:00 a.m.) and Friday, December 4 (6:30 a.m.- noon) in our office. We are concentrating our

initial efforts on patients who have not received any doses of H1N1 vaccine. Over the next few weeks, we expect that we will have sufficient vaccine to provide booster doses to our patients that received their initial doses at one of the mass distribution clinics mentioned above.

If your child has not yet received a dose of the H1N1 vaccine, we ask that you once again email your request for vaccine to H1N1@senderspediatrics.com. Be sure to include the following information:

- Your child's name & date of birth (be sure to include the name & birth date of each individual child that you would like to get vaccinated)
- Your day preference: Thursday, December 3 or Friday, December 4

If you are one of the first 1000 patients to send an email to H1N1@senderspediatrics.com, we will email you with a date and time for arrival. Only responses sent to H1N1@senderspediatrics.com will be accepted. (Do NOT send your request to our main address kids@senderspediatrics.com).

Prior to your arrival, it is imperative that you register with the Ohio Department of Health at <https://h1n1vaccine.odh.ohio.gov/> and print out your registration form and number. When you arrive, we will ask you for your registration form and ask you to sign a consent form that is similar to the one that we use for seasonal flu. For patients who are coming for well visits in the next few weeks (if your child has not already received the vaccine), we ask that you register your child at <https://h1n1vaccine.odh.ohio.gov/> and, assuming, we have sufficient supply, we will be able to provide the vaccine at that visit. We are sorry for some of the confusion and going forward, are thrilled that the Ohio Department of Health has communicated their policy approach to us in this manner.

A few other exciting things going on at Senders Pediatrics:

- We are thrilled that our patients were so supportive of Joey Senders Bar Mitzva collection of toys as part of the Cleveland Cavaliers Toy Drive as Presented by Charter One. With your help, we were able to collect over 300 new toys which were presented to the Cavaliers at the November 28, 2009 game with the Dallas Mavericks (Cavs won!). Thank you for your support of this wonderful charity. The toy drive at Quicken Loans Arena will continue until Christmas but we will no longer be collecting toys at our facility. You may drop them off at any Charter One Branch in the Greater Cleveland area.
- Join Senders Pediatrics [Facebook Fan Page](#). We would love if you would "friend us" so that we have one more way of communicating with our patients. There are also some announcements about upcoming events that you won't want to miss.
- Love our office? This is your chance to show your friends, family and co-workers why you like Senders Pediatrics. Until February 28, 2010, we will be rewarding our patients for new referrals to our office. If you refer a new patient to our office who schedules a well child exam, you will receive a \$20 Target gift card. There are no limitations.

As always, thank you for your continued support of our practice. We look forward to taking care of your family's needs this winter.

Sincerely,
Senders Pediatrics

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