



NEWS RELEASE

For Immediate Release:
Oct. 20, 2009

For More Information, Contact:
Tim Wiedrich
North Dakota Department of Health
Phone: 701.328.2270
E-mail: twiedric@nd.gov

Department of Health Recommends Revaccination of Some Individuals Against H1N1 *Temperature Issues Raise Questions About Effectiveness of Some Vaccine Shipments*

BISMARCK, N.D. – On Oct. 19, 2009, the North Dakota Department of Health notified vaccine providers that some of the injectable H1N1 vaccine they received last week may be ineffective because of temperature issues while being shipped.

The vaccine that is affected is safe but may not be effective at preventing H1N1 influenza.

The vaccine was shipped to the Department of Health, where it was repackaged October 14 and sent to 99 vaccine providers across the state. On October 15, the department received calls from some of the providers reporting that the freeze indicator in the packages showed temperatures below safe shipping and storage range. Fifty-five providers reported that their vaccine was not affected; 30 providers reported that temperature indicators showed their vaccine was frozen; and the department is still checking with 14 additional providers. About 1,700 doses of injectable vaccine are estimated to be affected out of a total 24,100 doses of injectable and Flumist vaccine received in the state. The Flumist (nasal spray) vaccine was not affected.

The Department of Health is trying to determine why some of the monitors showed temperatures out of range. In the meantime, the department has recommended that providers not use the injectable vaccine they received if a temperature indicator showed frozen temperatures. Acting on the side of caution, the department also is recommending that people who received the affected vaccine be revaccinated and has asked providers to contact any patients who need to be revaccinated. The Department of Health is working to determine how many people are recommended to be revaccinated.

For more information, contact Tim Wiedrich, North Dakota Department of Health, at 701.328.2270.

-- 30 --

Please note: To access archived news releases and other information, visit the North Dakota Department of Health Press Room at www.nddohpressroom.gov.

600 E. Boulevard Ave. Dept. 301, Bismarck, North Dakota 58505-0200
Phone: 701.328.2372 Fax: 701.328.4727 E-mail: health@nd.gov

Visit the health department home page at www.ndhealth.gov.