



# COMMONWEALTH of VIRGINIA

Department of Health

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STATE HEALTH COMMISSIONER

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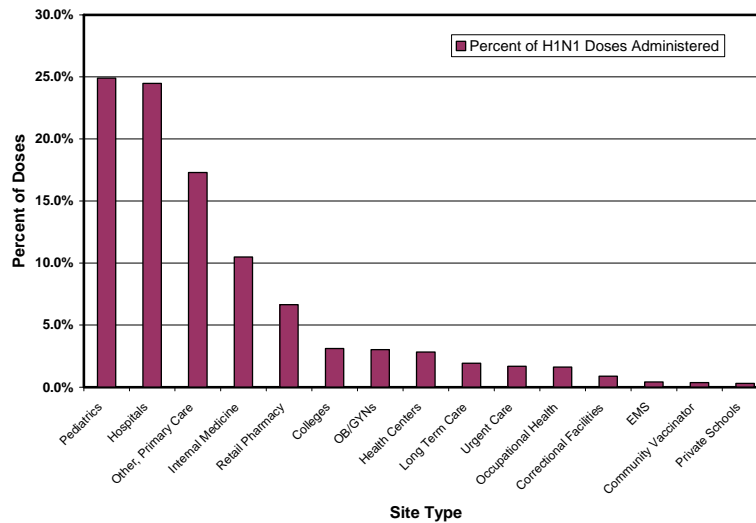
January 22, 2010

Dear Members of the Virginia Chapter of the American Academy of Pediatrics:

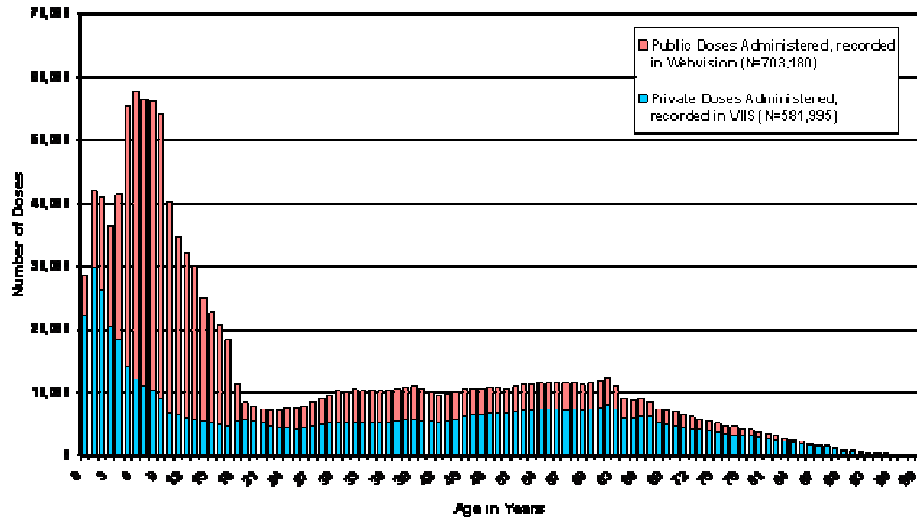
As a fellow pediatrician, I want to extend my heartfelt gratitude to you and acknowledge the critical role you have played in Virginia's response to the H1N1 influenza pandemic. For over nine months, you have shared your skill and expertise with Virginia's families and their children. The impact of H1N1 on our children, all of whom have been at increased risk of disease, has been softened through your education of worried parents, clinical care of the ill, and disease prevention through vaccination.

Thank you for your strong support to our public health efforts at both the local and state level, especially the campaign to vaccinate Virginians against H1N1 influenza. And, please share my gratitude with your office staff as they are also very important members of this historic public health response. For instance, I was very pleased to learn this week of the fine work of Dr. Katherine Abbott of Crestwood Pediatric Associates in Manassas. Her practice has given over 5000 H1N1 and seasonal flu vaccines and hosted 192 independent flu clinics this year, achieving a 92 percent overall vaccination rating in their last audit from the Virginia Vaccines for Children program. To date, the private sector (including private physician offices) has provided nearly half of the 1.3 million doses of H1N1 vaccine recorded in the Commonwealth. Pediatricians in particular have done a phenomenal job of vaccinating pre-schoolers. I have included two graphs that very visually demonstrate the very hard work you and your office staff have done to get children protected through vaccination.

Percent of H1N1 Doses Administered (N=581,070) by Selected Site Types as of 1/19/2010, Excluding Health Departments



**H1N1 Vaccine Doses Administered in the Public and Private Sectors  
by Age, Reported as of 1/18/2010 (N=1,285,175), Cumulative**



I would ask you to strongly promote this important vaccination effort over the next few weeks. This vaccine has proven to be both safe and effective. It is very important that all children are vaccinated, including the second dose of H1N1 vaccine for those aged six months through nine years of age. Recent studies continue to support the need for both doses to fully protect all children in this age range. We are seeking overall Virginia immunization rates of 20 to 25 percent and pediatric rates of at least 35 percent to help stave off the risk of additional waves of H1N1 influenza activity.

To help you defray the initial startup expenses associated with the reporting requirements for administering H1N1 vaccine, the Virginia Department of Health is offering \$1,000 grants to medical provider entities that are H1N1 registered vaccinators. These funds can be used to cover, for example, staff time for data entry, staff training in the VIIS reporting system, and programmatic adjustments in software. For information, please contact Kim Allan at [Kim.Allan@vdh.virginia.gov](mailto:Kim.Allan@vdh.virginia.gov) or 1-804-864-7030.

I look forward to an ongoing, strong partnership between the Virginia Chapter of the American Academy of Pediatrics and the Virginia Department of Health. Virginia's children are looking to us to lead the way. Thank you again.

Sincerely,

Karen Remley, MD, MBA, FAAP  
State Health Commissioner