



COMMONWEALTH of VIRGINIA

Department of Health

P O BOX 2448

RICHMOND, VA 23218

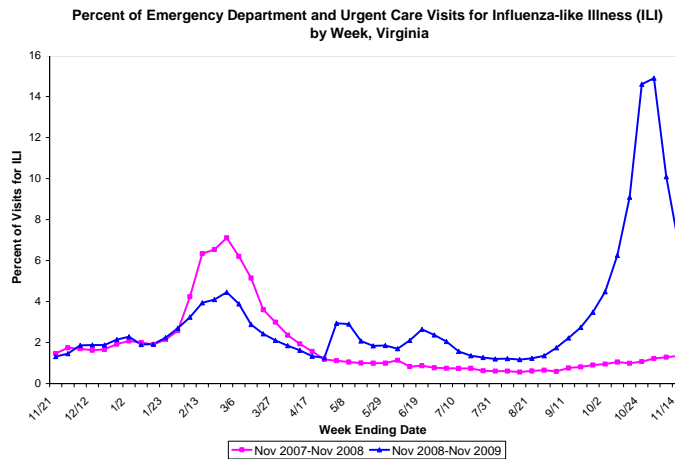
November 20, 2009

KAREN REMLEY, MD, MBA, FAAP
STATE HEALTH COMMISSIONER

TTY 7-1-1 OR
1-800-828-1120

Dear Colleague:

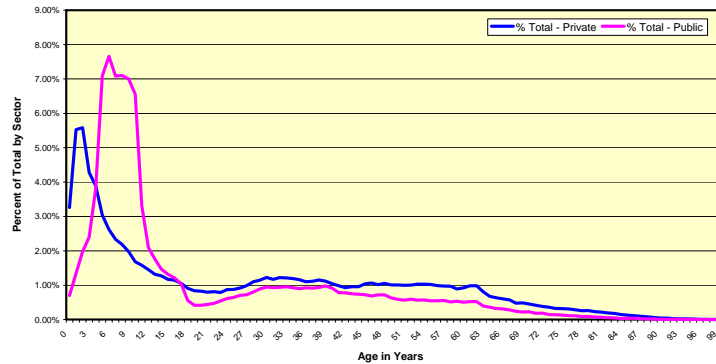
The Thanksgiving season is upon us, and I am happy to share with you information about a decrease in the H1N1 disease burden for which we can be grateful but we also need to remain vigilant. VDH Surveillance continues to indicate an ebbing in this fall's wave of H1N1 disease activity. However, the level of disease continues to be at an historical high for this time of year with widespread disease activity. Pandemics are characterized by multiple waves of disease activity and that combined with the presence of H1N1 infections throughout the summer remind us that we need to continue to monitor and reassess the situation weekly. Sadly, VDH now reports 29 deaths in our state from H1N1, with 3 being pediatric. I anticipate more deaths in the coming weeks as there are still many critically ill patients throughout the state and although disease has significantly diminished, many Virginians are still at risk for infection.



I, along with all Virginians am especially thankful for the professionalism and commitment of Virginia's medical community in responding to the challenges of H1N1 influenza. The primary care community has tirelessly served their patients well.

I would like to share a new graph with you that demonstrates vaccinations delivered by age and by public and private sector. Again, excellent work by our primary care MDs, and Local Health Departments in getting our children vaccinated is seen by the curves to the left.

Percent of H1N1 Vaccine Doses Administered in the Public and Private Sectors by Age, Reported as of 11/18/2009



Many of you have been able to participate in the H1N1 **Vaccination** program. The chart below demonstrates how the vaccine has been allocated to date. Please remember that some of these doses have been administered, some are in route and some are in your offices and hospitals.

| VACCINATOR CATEGORY | Type | % of Total | # Allocated | # Requested |
|---|---|-------------|------------------|------------------|
| Local Health Departments | distribution through appts., mass clinics, walk-ins, school based programs | 44% | 565,820 | 1,222,270 |
| Hospital & EMS | focus on direct patient care employees, EMS patients with chronic disease | 16% | 206,020 | 1,054,900 |
| Federally Qualified Health Centers, Community Health Centers, Rural Health Centers, and Free Clinics | low-income, vulnerable and uninsured | 2% | 23,680 | 132,560 |
| Physician Practices | OB/GYN, PEDS., Internists, FP and other specialties who see chronic disease | 33% | 421,290 | 1,769,770 |
| | Pediatric | 13% | 169,250 | 545,820 |
| | Obstetric/Gynecology | 4% | 46,770 | 76,320 |
| | All Others | 16% | 205,270 | 1,147,630 |
| Congregate Living Facilities | universities, private schools, long term care, assisted living, correctional facilities | 6% | 75,070 | 646,860 |
| | School & Colleges | 4% | 52,220 | 558,510 |
| | All Others | 2% | 22,850 | 88,350 |
| Misclassification | | 0% | 1,900 | |
| Total | | 100% | 1,293,780 | 4,826,360 |

Please remember that, to be protected, children ages 2 months thru 9 years old require a second dose of H1N1 vaccine given at 28 days or more after the first dose. It is acceptable for these doses to be different formulations (ex. LAIV or “nasal mist” for one dose and injectable vaccine for the other).

This week our VDH website added the national “Flu Vaccine Locator” tool. Users enter their zip code or town and a Google map with information on nearby public vaccine sites is revealed. This will be a handy tool for those of you who are not vaccinators to refer your patients to so they may find a vaccination site. The website is www.vdh.virginia.gov. Information on school vaccination clinics can also be accessed through our website.

Private medical practices in need of N95 respirator masks for disease **Mitigation** can obtain them at no charge through our website’s “Healthcare Provider Resources” section.

In the arena of **Direct Clinical Care** I encourage you to promote H1N1 vaccination for your adult patients age 25 to 64 with underlying medical conditions that place them at high risk for complication from H1N1. These include patients with diabetes, asthma, heart disease, renal disease, COPD, pregnancy at any stage, compromised immune systems, neurocognitive or neuromuscular disorders and other co-morbid conditions. Obesity has also been identified as a risk factor. Please maintain a high index of suspicion in patients with these

conditions and consider antiviral therapy if they develop clinical signs of influenza infection. While H1N1 disease burden is high among children, most reported deaths are occurring in the adult population.

As always, I encourage **Communication** with your local public health director for up-to-date public health recommendations in dealing with H1N1 influenza. Our VDH Inquiry Center remains a great resource for the public at 1-877-ASK-VDH3, answering questions weekdays during business hours.

Thank you again for all you are doing to keep Virginians healthy.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Karen Remley".

Karen Remley, MD, MBA, FAAP