



Dutchess County Department of Health Public Health Advisory*

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H1N1 Guidance For Medical Care Facilities & Offices

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Please Distribute to : Healthcare Providers, Emergency Medicine, Pediatrics, Primary Care, Infectious Diseases, Internal Medicine, Family Medicine, Laboratory Medicine, Pulmonary Medicine, Critical Care, Nursing Homes, and Infection Control staff

The Dutchess County Department of Health reminds healthcare providers to take preventive and control measures in their Medical Offices and Outpatient Facilities, including:

- ◇ **Screen patients** for signs and symptoms of febrile respiratory illness at entry to the facility, and if possible, use separate waiting and exam rooms for possible H1N1 flu patients;
- ◇ **Offer surgical masks** to symptomatic patients who are able to wear them (adult and pediatric sizes should be available);
- ◇ **Provide facial tissues**, receptacles for their disposal, and hand hygiene products (e.g., hand sanitizers) in waiting areas and examination rooms;
- ◇ Ensuring that all healthcare personnel who come in close contact with a patient who may have 2009 H1N1 flu **use personal protective equipment**, to include respiratory and eye protection;
- ◇ **Provide staff with immunization** against seasonal and H1N1 flu.

It is critical that medical offices and other outpatient facilities have alternate plans to cope with additional surge during a pandemic. The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention has issued guidance for inpatient and outpatient medical care facilities and offices on ten steps they can take to deal with the expected surge of patients due to the H1N1 pandemic flu virus. This guidance is available at www.cdc.gov/h1n1flu/10steps.htm.

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***Health Alert**- conveys the highest level of importance; warrants immediate action or attention; **Health Advisory**- provides important information for a specific incident or situation; may not require immediate action; **Health Update**- provides updated information regarding an incident or situation; unlikely to require immediate action.

Dutchess County Department of Health

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