

State of New Jersey H1N1 Influenza Update Week of October 5th

- **State Opens H1N1 Call Center** – New Jersey has opened a toll-free public information hotline from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m., Monday through Friday beginning October 6. The information line number is **1-866-321-9571**. Call center operators will be able to provide general information about H1N1, vaccine safety and availability information, symptoms of H1N1 and flu preventive measures.

- **State H1N1 Website** - The most up-to-date H1N1 influenza and vaccination information can be found at: **www.nj.gov/health/flu/h1n1**.

- **Vaccine will Arrive in Stages Over a Three-Month Period** - Shipments of the H1N1 vaccine – both nasal spray and injectable vaccine - will continue to arrive throughout this month and into November and December. Vaccine availability will be very limited at first and will increase over time. The injectable H1N1 vaccine is expected to begin arriving in the state over the next few weeks—again in staggered shipments.

- **Limited H1N1 Nasal Mist Vaccine Supply Arrives in New Jersey** - A small number of local health departments and health care providers received initial shipments of nasal spray H1N1 flu vaccine this week. Plans for the administration of the vaccine that arrived this week and additional shipments that will continue to arrive are being finalized by providers. The U.S. Food and Drug Administration approved nasal mist for healthy people between the ages of 2 and 49 who are not pregnant.

- **Nasal Mist Targeted for Healthy Children Ages 2-18 and Healthcare Workers** - The H1N1 nasal mist vaccine is only recommended for healthy people between the ages of 2 and 49 who are not pregnant. Due to the limited initial supply, the Department of Health and Senior Services is targeting the nasal mist for healthy children between the ages of 2 and 18 and healthcare workers.

- **H1N1 Vaccinations are Not Mandatory** - While H1N1 vaccinations are strongly encouraged, they are not mandatory.