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To: Local Health Departments and Tribal Clinics

From: Jeffrey P. Davis, M.D., Chief Medical Officer and State Epidemiologist  
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Subject: Vaccination of pregnant women with 2009 H1N1 influenza vaccine

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Distribution of the 2009 H1N1 influenza vaccine to providers statewide has begun. Vaccinating individuals among the recommended target groups, which include pregnant women, has begun. Pregnant women and newborns are at increased risk of complications from influenza illnesses caused by seasonal and 2009 H1N1 influenza viruses. At any time, pregnant women constitute about one percent of the United States population. However, pregnant women are four times as likely as members of the general public to be hospitalized with illnesses attributed to the 2009 H1N1 influenza virus and six percent of confirmed deaths attributable to 2009 H1N1 influenza nationwide have occurred among pregnant women.

The American College of Obstetricians and Gynecologists (ACOG) and the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) strongly recommend vaccinating all women who are pregnant or will become pregnant during the influenza season with the 2009 H1N1 influenza virus vaccine and the seasonal influenza vaccine. Information for clinicians regarding vaccination of pregnant women has been posted on the CDC website at: [www.cdc.gov/h1n1flu](http://www.cdc.gov/h1n1flu) and on the ACOG website at [www.acog.org](http://www.acog.org).

You are encouraged to make plans to vaccinate pregnant women in your clinics. It is very important that, when pregnant women present at one of your immunization clinics, you immunize them according to the ACIP recommendations and not refer them to another provider. If you are unable to vaccinate in your office, please assist your patients in making arrangements for pregnant women to receive timely influenza vaccination elsewhere. Pregnant women can only receive inactivated influenza vaccines (inactivated trivalent vaccine to protect against seasonal influenza viruses and inactivated monovalent vaccine to protect against the 2009 H1N1 influenza virus).

If you have questions concerning immunization of pregnant women, please call the H1N1 Clinician Hotline at 1-877-393-4161. Updated clinical information may also be found on our website at: [www.pandemic.wisconsin.gov](http://www.pandemic.wisconsin.gov). Thank you for your efforts to work in partnership with the Wisconsin Division of Public Health on this very important activity.