

### **What does the Emergency Proclamation do/include/cover?**

Issuance of this emergency proclamation is an important tool in the State's preparation for H1N1 influenza, to identify and make available the necessary resources and assets to respond to this developing situation. In order to meet the demand for the initial delivery of H1N1 influenza vaccine and subsequent deliveries, if available, local health departments/governments may need additional human resources.

If requested by a local health department/government, EMT Intermediates and EMT-Paramedics can be trained to assist with administration of and administer the H1N1 influenza vaccine, when the Governor makes a declaration of emergency that affects the public's health, such as this one.

OCC/MRC volunteers are included as an important part of many county emergency operations plans and pandemic influenza plans. They are utilized in a variety of day-to-day activities at the local government level. In the event local health departments/governments utilize registered OCC/MRC volunteers for assistance with the receipt, distribution, accounting, and administration of the H1N1 influenza vaccine, the Emergency Proclamation allows them to have the limited liability protections of Section 121.404 of the Ohio Revised Code.

The Emergency Proclamation authorizes the Ohio Department of Administrative Services, upon the request of and in consultation with the Ohio Department of Health and Ohio EMA, to suspend standard state purchasing and contracting requirements so that necessary supplies and services can be quickly located and purchased. This suspension applies only to these three state agencies and only to purchases of supplies and services related to the receiving, distributing, accounting for and administration of the H1N1 influenza vaccine.



**TED STRICKLAND**  
GOVERNOR  
STATE OF OHIO

## **Emergency Proclamation Regarding the H1N1 Vaccine**

- 1. H1N1 Influenza Has Been Identified in Ohio.** On April 24, 2009, the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, through the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, confirmed a case of H1N1 influenza in the State. This confirmed case of H1N1 influenza created potentially dangerous conditions which may affect the health, safety, and welfare of the citizens of the State. The disease continues to circulate in the State with increases occurring as we move into Autumn.
- 2. Potential Impact on Ohioans.** Although this virus has produced a disease similar to seasonal influenza, the lives and well-being of the citizens in of the State may potentially be impacted because so few have immunity to the disease. Accordingly, the issuance of this Emergency Proclamation is an important tool in the State's preparation and will permit the State to identify and obtain the necessary resources and assets to respond to this developing situation.
- 3. Assistance to Ohioans.** As a result of the continued circulation of the disease in the State, I have, through the Ohio Department of Health, requested the State's allocation of the H1N1 influenza vaccine from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, which is expected in the State in early October. Vaccination will begin with the priority groups established by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. As the vaccine continues to be manufactured and available to the State, additional quantities of the vaccine will be requested.
- 4. Determination of Emergency that Affects the Public's Health.** Ohio law authorizes me, when I determine that a public health emergency exists necessitating it, to permit EMTs-Intermediate and EMTs-Paramedic to perform immunizations and administer drugs or dangerous drugs, provided such EMTs are under physician medical direction and have received appropriate training regarding the administration of such immunizations and/or drugs. As a result of the need to quickly receive, distribute, account for and administer the H1N1 influenza vaccine to as many Ohioans as possible, additional human resources are required. Therefore, I find that such a public health emergency exists and

authorize qualified EMTs-Intermediate and EMTs-Paramedic to perform H1N1 immunizations and administer H1N1 related drugs or dangerous drugs as those terms are defined in Ohio law. I also find that this emergency requires, and I therefore authorize in accordance with Ohio law, registered Ohio Citizen Corps/Ohio Medical Reserve Corps volunteers to assist with the receipt, distribution, accounting for and administration of the H1N1 influenza vaccine.

5. **Suspension of Purchasing and Contracting Requirements.** Ohio law also authorizes me to suspend standard state purchasing and contracting requirements when an emergency requires it. I believe that the H1N1 public health emergency may require the temporary suspension of standard state purchasing and contracting requirements so that necessary supplies and services can be quickly located and purchased. Therefore, I hereby authorize the Ohio Department of Administrative Services to suspend purchasing and contracting requirements related to this emergency if, after consultation with the Executive Director of the Ohio Emergency Management Agency or the Director of the Ohio Department of Health, the Director of the Ohio Department of Administrative Services determines that a temporary suspension is necessary to protect the citizens of the State. Any suspension shall not exceed the period of this emergency and purchases shall be limited expressly to those items needed to resolve the emergency situation related to the H1N1 influenza virus.
6. **This Determination of Emergency is not a Public Safety Emergency.** This emergency proclamation does not implement the Department of Administrative Services Directive 08-03 or the Ohio Emergency Management Agency "Weather Emergency Procedure" (revised March 20, 2008). Accordingly, classified and unclassified exempt employees' obligation to travel to and from work is not limited as a result of this emergency proclamation.
7. I signed this Emergency Proclamation on October 7, 2009, in Columbus, Ohio and it will take effect immediately. It will remain in effect until the emergency no longer exists as determined by the Executive Director of the Emergency Management Agency. The Executive Director will coordinate the State's response efforts and terminate the emergency upon the recommendation of appropriate officials of the other responding state department/ agencies and the impacted local government.



*Ted Strickland*  
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Ted Strickland, Governor