



Ohio's Emergency Management News



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Ted Strickland, Governor ★ Nancy Dragani, Ohio EMA Executive Director ★ Cathy Collins-Taylor, ODPS Director
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Ohio Department of Health Announces: H1N1 vaccine available to all Ohioans

COLUMBUS – For the past eight weeks, the Ohio Department of Health (ODH) submits weekly orders to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) for hundreds of thousands of doses of the H1N1 flu vaccine. The CDC ships allotments directly to more than 1,900 enrolled medical providers in all 88 state counties.

Effective December 14, the H1N1 flu vaccine became available to the general public. Previously, the vaccine was only available to people in “high risk” groups which included pregnant women, emergency workers, health care professionals, youth aged 6 months to 24 years, and individuals with chronic illnesses.

Last week, the CDC reported that approximately 800,000 doses of the vaccine for children are being recalled because tests found the strength of the serum had dropped. The recall was done as a precaution; not because the vaccine poses any threat to safety.

The CDC emphasized there are not safety concerns for children who received the recalled vaccine. A manufacturer of the vaccine found four distributed lots of the single-dose pediatric vaccine to have lower-than-required potency levels of antigen. Many Ohio county and city health departments reported that they did not administer H1N1 vaccines on the recall list.

The ODH reminds parents and health care providers that children younger than 10 years old need to have two doses of the H1N1 flu vaccine to achieve optimal protection. Children who have had their first dose on or before Nov. 16 are now eligible for their second dose. The CDC recommends that the two doses be separated by 28 days to be effective.

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Chas Keeley, H1N1 situational analyst of Ohio EMA, updates the status board in the assessment room.



Jarrett Dunbar, public information officer of the Ohio Dept. of Insurance, works as lead PIO in the Joint Information Center during the H1N1 flu incident.

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Last week ODH submitted orders for 4,16,400 doses of H1N1 flu vaccine to the CDC.

ODH previously ordered 3,246,300 doses of the H1N1 vaccine, bringing Ohio's current total to 3,662,700 doses. More vaccine is expected to be available in the coming weeks.

The State Emergency Operations Center's assessment room and joint information center have been open and operational since late October, coordinating county/state activities and responding to media calls concerning the H1N1 pandemic.

For information on vaccine availability, visit the Ohio Department of Health's Web site at www.flu.ohio.gov or call the ODH H1N1 information line at 1-866-800-1404, 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. Monday through Friday. Offices and call lines will be closed Dec. 25 and Jan. 1.



EMA Updates

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Ohio Department of Transportation Joins the Ohio Severe Weather Awareness Committee

The Ohio Department of Transportation (ODOT) is the newest partner of the Ohio Committee for Severe Weather Awareness. ODOT provides weather safety information links to "Ice and Snow ... Take it Slow" and its interactive site, BuckeyeTraffic.org.



Buckeye Traffic provides access to statewide road activities, seasonal weather condition reports, automated weather sensors data and live Web camera views.

Under Ice and Snow, Take it Slow, ODOT encourages drivers to be prepared. Find out about weather and driving conditions before getting on the road. If the weather is bad, remember: Ice and Snow ... Take it Slow - or just don't go.

Before driving, remove any snow accumulated on your vehicle's windows, lights and signals. If it's snowing or raining, drive with the headlights on. Make sure you can see and be seen. And, leave early enough to reach your destination safely. Winter driving conditions can change from mile to mile and minute to minute.

For additional information, visit the ODOT Web site at www.dot.state.oh.us.



Xavier is Ohio's First  University

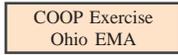
This summer, Xavier University (in Hamilton County) became the first college in Ohio to earn the National Weather Service StormReady University recognition. In order to become StormReady, Xavier University developed plans for severe weather, installed weather radios and ensured that forecast products from the Weather Forecast Office in Wilmington could be received and disseminated throughout the campus to students, faculty and staff via several different methods.

Over the past year, Xavier has participated in Sky Warn spotter training, safety talks and a campus tornado drill. Also, a 24-hour warning point and an emergency operations center were organized and set up at the Xavier Police Department. Xavier University plans to continue its severe weather preparedness and activities on an annual basis.

The National Weather Service will soon conduct a StormReady recognition ceremony to recognize Xavier University for its outstanding efforts in developing hazardous weather plans.

Ohio currently has 17 StormReady sites located in the following: Allen, Auglaize, Clermont, Coshocton, Huron, Jackson, Licking, Lucas, Medina, Mercer, Richland, Sandusky, Scioto, Shelby, Union and Van Wert counties and Xavier University (Hamilton County). The Cincinnati Reds Great American Ballpark is a StormReady Supporter.

For information on becoming StormReady, visit the NWS Web site: www.stormready.noaa.gov/.

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
December 20	21	22	23	24	25  <i>Christmas</i>	26
27	28	29	30	31	January 1 	2
3	4	5	6	7	8	9
10	11 	12	13 	14	15	16

Register for Ohio EMA courses by visiting <http://ema.state.oh.us/training> * TAC - Technical Advisory Committee