



Sarpy/Cass Health Department Needs YOU!

As you have probably heard, the H1N1 vaccine is scheduled to be shipped primarily to hospitals and health departments in October. Sarpy/Cass Health Department is engaging some providers to administer in their clinic offices, but in large part, we will be holding both small and large community based and school based clinics in both Sarpy and Cass Counties. This will take place over several weeks, as we anticipate much of the targeted population requiring two doses.

However, as a planner, I am trying to build a pool of general volunteers and possible vaccinators with days of usual availability so I can begin to plan clinics. If you would like to volunteer with us, would you please fill out this survey and return to the Sarpy/Cass Health Department, to my attention, as soon as possible? You can e-mail, fax or snail mail. Your information would then be added to a volunteer pool matrix and will allow me to plan clinics accordingly.

Of course, I would contact you first before scheduling you for any particular clinic! Keep in mind the more volunteers I have to pull from, the lighter the workload for everyone! If you have friends, family, or church members that you can share a copy of this survey with, please do.

Thank you!

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Yes, I would like to help Sarpy/Cass Dept. of Health protect its citizens from H1N1!

Name: _____ Day Phone: _____ Eve. Phone: _____

Email: _____

General Volunteers

Non Medical Staff: Greeters: Yes _____ No _____ Forms distribution: Yes _____ No _____

Forms collection: Yes _____ No _____

Medical Volunteers

Licensed/Certified: _____ License number: _____

Scope of Practice: _____

I will be willing to volunteer in Sarpy _____ and/or Cass _____ Counties

Willing to vaccinate: Yes _____ No _____ Willing to fill syringes: Yes _____ No _____

Willing to administer in flu-mist form (live, attenuated): Yes _____ No _____

ALL

Usual Days of Availability:

Mon _____ Tues _____ Wed _____ Thurs _____ Friday _____ Sat _____ (we realize many of you work, and rotate days off. If you would be willing to volunteer on a day off, check them all, and then when called, you can state your availability that week.)

Times of Availability:

During normal school hours: Yes _____ No _____ Office hours: Yes _____ No _____

Evenings: Yes _____ No _____

If available Saturday, would you prefer: Morning _____ or Afternoon _____

Attached is a copy of the Nebraska Department of Health and Human Services Public and Preparedness Act Q&A which clarifies any liability questions you may have. For medical volunteers, we will need a copy of your license/certification prior to you administrating vaccine.

Nebraska Department of Health and Human Services

The Public Readiness and Preparedness Act (PREP): What you need to know

Overview

During a public health emergency, the Public Readiness and Emergency Preparedness Act (“PREP Act”) gives immunity from lawsuits, for manufacturers, administrators and distributors of vaccines, as well as other qualified persons (i.e., healthcare and other providers) who prescribe, administer, or dispense countermeasures, unless they were acting with willful misconduct.

Under PREP Act declarations, the United States Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) Secretary removes financial risk barriers for everyone in the “vaccination chain.”

When did it become law and when can it be used?

The PREP Act was enacted in 2005 by Congress. The authority to issue a PREP Act declaration does not depend on other types of emergency declarations being issued. The PREP Act was enacted primarily to address pandemic influenza threats by providing broad liability protection of “covered persons” after a declaration by the Secretary for “covered countermeasures.”

What is a declaration?

A declaration includes the determination of a threat or credible risk, recommendation for action, and the category of diseases, health conditions or health threats. It also includes the effective time period, the covered population, the geographic area of administration, and any limitations.

What is a covered countermeasure?

A covered countermeasure may include vaccines, antidotes, medications, medical devices or other FDA regulated assets used to respond to pandemics, epidemics, or any biological, chemical, radiological, or nuclear threat.

Who is covered under the PREP Act?

- *Manufacturers* of countermeasures;
- *Distributors* of countermeasures;
- *Program planners* of countermeasures (i.e., individuals and entities involved in planning and administering programs for distribution of a countermeasure);
- *Qualified persons* who prescribe, administer, or dispense countermeasures (i.e., healthcare and other providers); and
- Officials, agents, and employees of any of these entities or persons are also covered persons.

A person includes an individual, partnership, corporation, association, entity, or public or private corporation, including a Federal, State, or local government agency or department.

What is covered under the PREP Act?

Covered persons are protected from any liability for any loss with any causal relationship to any stage of the administration of a covered countermeasure. There are exceptions for willful misconduct and for claims that fall outside of the time frame and geographic limits stated in the declaration.



NEBRASKA

Public Health Emergency Response Program
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Lincoln, NE 68509-5026
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<http://www.dhhs.ne.gov/influenza>

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In addition, health care providers to be covered must report a serious injury or death from vaccine administration within seven days of its discovery to the Vaccine Adverse Events Reporting System (VAERS) at 1-800-822-7967 or <http://vaers.hhs.gov/contact.htm>.

Have declarations been issued before?

In January 2007, the Secretary of HHS issued a PREP Act declaration for the H5N1 Pandemic Influenza Vaccine. This declaration has been amended three times. In 2008, there were PREP Act declarations for Anthrax, Botulism, Pandemic Antiviral, Small Pox, and Acute Radiation Syndrome Countermeasures. In 2008, there was also a PREP Act declaration for Pandemic Influenza Diagnostics, Personal Respiratory Protection Devices, and Respiratory Support Devices. The Pandemic Antiviral Countermeasure declaration was amended in April 2009.

Is the H1N1 vaccine covered under the PREP Act?

Yes. In June 2009, the Secretary amended the declaration to include H1N1 vaccine.

If providers are immune from liability, how are people compensated for an injury from the countermeasure?

The PREP Act removes the right to recover in a lawsuit for persons injured by a covered countermeasure, unless the person can prove willful misconduct that resulted in injury.

The PREP Act provides compensation to eligible individuals injured by countermeasures in the event of designated public health emergencies. The federal government has allocated funds for compensation for this program. Compensation includes out-of-pocket medical expenses, lost wages, and a death benefit to survivors.

The government develops a list of adverse events that may be related to the vaccine. The

conditions that appear on this list within the time window given are presumed to be causally related to the countermeasure, and are compensated.

Where can I go for more information on the PREP Act?

The federal Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) has a website where you can get more detailed information on the PREP Act. It is:

www.hhs.gov/disasters/emergency/manmade-disasters/bioterrorism/medication-vaccine-qa.html