

### **NEXT YEAR'S PREPAREDNESS GRANTS LIKELY TO FOCUS ON H1N1 ACTIVITIES**

Expressing concern about the possibility of a more severe H1N1 outbreak in the fall, NYSDOH's Office of Health Emergency Preparedness has signaled that many hospital deliverables for the next grant year will concentrate on increasing surge capacity and other H1N1 response ability.

To prepare to vaccinate personnel, hospitals may be asked to review and, if necessary, strengthen hospital point of dispensing plans. Although there are still many unanswered questions about when, how and to whom the vaccine will be administered, some current planning assumptions from the CDC include:

- the majority of vaccine will be in multi-dose vials;
- HHS plans to provide needles and syringes, sharps containers and alcohol swabs;
- two doses will be needed for persons under 50, with 21-28 days between the first and second vaccination;
- planners should plan for documenting data requirements including, at a minimum, age/priority groups, 1st or 2nd dose, date of vaccination, and state.

### **WHITE HOUSE SCHEDULES H1N1 PREPAREDNESS SUMMIT FOR STATES**

The federal government also continues to prepare for the possibility of a more severe H1N1 outbreak as the virus persists in circulating here in the US and abroad. According to a recent press release, Health and Human Services Secretary Kathleen Sebelius, Homeland Security Secretary Janet Napolitano, Education Secretary Arne Duncan, and Homeland Security Advisor John Brennan will host an all-day H1N1 Flu Preparedness Summit with states on July 9 at the National Institutes of Health.

"Scientists and public health experts forecast that the impact of H1N1 may well worsen in the fall - when the regular flu season hits, or even earlier, when schools start to open - which is only five or six weeks away in some cases," Secretary Sebelius said. "The goal of the Summit is to launch a national influenza campaign by bringing federal, state and local officials, emergency managers, educators and others together with the nation's public health experts to build on and tailor states' existing pandemic plans, share lessons learned and best practices during the spring and summer H1N1 wave, and discuss preparedness priorities."

### **ACEP RELEASES ED PLAN FOR H1N1**

Last week, NorMet distributed a PDF of the American College of Emergency Physicians' National Strategic Plan for Emergency Department Management of Novel H1N1 Influenza. According to the document, hospital administrators, medical directors, nursing and support staff should "... undertake the necessary operational planning to assure their performance prior to, during and following an outbreak of novel H1N1 influenza. [The ACEP Strategic Plan] serves as a guide for emergency departments to address the interdependencies that are necessary for successful management of such an incident. The goal of this guidance is to protect the health care infrastructure and ensure the delivery of emergency medical treatment during a large scale epidemic or pandemic." The plan can be downloaded from the ACEP website at <http://www.acep.org/WorkArea/DownloadAsset.aspx?id=45781>.

### **NEJM ONLINE SWINE FLU PAGE**

The New England Journal of Medicine has an online H1N1 Influenza Center at <http://h1n1.nejm.org>. One recent article examines pneumonia and respiratory failure from H1N1 in Mexico. The authors' conclusions: "S-OIV infection can cause severe illness, the acute respiratory distress syndrome, and death in previously healthy persons who are young to middle-aged."