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Richard F. Daines, M.D.  
*Commissioner*

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**A Message from State Health Commissioner Richard F. Daines, M.D.,  
to Health Care Providers Wanting to Receive H1N1 Flu Vaccine  
October 29, 2009**

- The production of the H1N1 flu vaccine has encountered delays. As a result, the federal Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) has told New York and other states not to expect large amounts of vaccine to be available until mid-November or later.
- The supply of vaccine is coordinated by the CDC. Whenever the CDC notifies the State Department of Health (DOH) of available vaccine, DOH quickly distributes the vaccine to clinical sites across the State.
- Based on the most recent CDC projections of vaccine supply, many providers may not receive vaccine for several weeks.
- We ask everyone to be patient as we wait for larger quantities of vaccine to become available.
- DOH is taking H1N1 vaccine orders now in order to be prepared to place orders on your behalf with the CDC national warehouse as soon as vaccine is available.
- During the first week of taking orders by phone (October 19-23) DOH received requests from health care providers for 3.16 million doses of vaccine but was notified by the CDC that only 160,000 doses of vaccine were available to ship to providers in New York State (outside of New York City). As a result, DOH had only 1 dose of vaccine to fill for every 20 doses requested.
- If you order H1N1 vaccine today from DOH, due to lack of supplies you probably will not receive the vaccine for several weeks and you probably won't receive your full order. DOH will fill unfilled back orders when more vaccine is available. DOH will send weekly emails to provide you with the status of your order.
- While health care providers and patients wait for vaccine, please consider using antiviral medicines such as oseltamivir and zanamivir for your high-risk patients, including pregnant women and young children with asthma. Check the DOH web site for clinical guidance on the use of antiviral medicines.

## **Follow This Two-Step Process to order Vaccine:**

1. Register to order vaccine by going to the DOH web site or directly to <https://hcsteamwork1.health.state.ny.us/pub/toph1n1.html>

Once you have completed the registration process you will be provided a “PIN Number.” This number is essential for the ordering process. Please be sure to print this number out, as it will be required to place an order for vaccine.

- BEFORE YOU CALL TO ORDER VACCINE, please check to be sure that you have your PIN number from your registration confirmation form.
  - IF YOU DO NOT HAVE A PIN NUMBER OR HAVE LOST YOUR PIN NUMBER, please go to the DOH web site to register or retrieve your PIN number before calling to order vaccine.
  - The information requested during the vaccine registration process, such as the number of patients you expect to see in different priority groups is NOT used to place an order for vaccine. This information helps the State prioritize vaccine distribution.
2. Place an Order: Following your initial registration, you will still need to place an order to receive vaccine. Go to the DOH web site at [www.nyhealth.gov](http://www.nyhealth.gov) to learn how to place an order.