



COMMONWEALTH of VIRGINIA

Department of Health

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KAREN REMLEY, MD, MBA, FAAP
STATE HEALTH COMMISSIONER

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To Virginia's Long Term Care Facility Administrators:

Over the past several months, the Virginia Department of Health (VDH), in partnership with clinicians around the state, has focused its H1N1 vaccination efforts on individuals in the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention's high risk groups. I am pleased to inform you that VDH is now recommending that all Virginians, including those who are residents of long term care facilities, receive the H1N1 vaccination.

Vaccination remains the single most effective way of preventing H1N1 influenza. If the residents and staff of your facility have not yet received vaccine, now is the time. There is enough vaccine for each of your residents and staff to get this very important protection from the H1N1 influenza.

If you experience any difficulties in getting your residents or staff vaccinated, please contact your local health department. In addition, if your facility is not already registered with VDH as a H1N1 vaccination site, please consider doing so. If your facility has previously received vaccine, but needs to order more, be sure to do so. Please refer to the VDH website (www.vdh.virginia.gov), or call the VDH Inquiry Center at 1-877-ASK-VDH3, in order to obtain information and answers to questions concerning the H1N1 vaccine, to learn how to become a registered H1N1 vaccination site, or to learn how to order more vaccine.

Thank you for your continued strong support of VDH's efforts to protect the health of all Virginians.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Karen Remley".

Karen Remley, MD, MBA, FAAP
State Health Commissioner