

ISDH Long Term Care
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ISDH Training Manager

The Indiana State Department of Health (ISDH) is pleased to announce the appointment of Gina Berkshire, R.N., as ISDH Training Manager. Gina will assume the Training Manager duties effective October 4, 2009. The Training Manager is responsible for coordinating the training of state surveyors, coordinating staff meetings, and contributing to the development of health care quality initiatives. The Training Manager oversees the aide testing and aide education programs.

Gina has a bachelor's degree in nursing from Ball State University and has worked as a nurse for many years. Since August 2006, Gina has worked as the ISDH's Minimum Data Set (MDS) Coordinator. In that position she has been responsible for handling MDS questions and training on MDS updates. Gina is a nurse surveyor and has assisted with long term care informal dispute resolutions. Prior to coming to the ISDH, Gina worked at Ball Memorial Hospital in med-surg and surgery. She is a member of the American Association of Nurse Assessment Coordinators (AANAC).

H1N1 Update

STATE HEALTH DEPARTMENT ORDERS 2009 H1N1 INFLUENZA A VACCINE

INDIANAPOLIS---State Health Commissioner Judy Monroe, M.D. today announced the Indiana State Department of Health has placed its first order of the live, attenuated nasal mist 2009 H1N1 flu vaccine; 28,700 doses.

"The H1N1 flu vaccine is a safe and effective way to protect you and your family from getting the flu," said Dr. Monroe. "This form of the vaccine is only recommended for healthy, non-pregnant people aged 2-49 years old."

Dr. Monroe says the Department expects for the intranasal vaccine to start arriving in Indiana early next week. It will be delivered directly to Indiana's 93 local health departments, who will determine how the H1N1 flu vaccine will be distributed in their communities.

"This is just the beginning," said Dr. Monroe. "Additional doses of the 2009 H1N1 flu vaccine are

anticipated to continue to be made available throughout the coming weeks, and we will order it for local health departments as it becomes available."

State health officials remind the public that they are targeting those at highest risk to get the H1N1 flu vaccine, first. These include:

- Pregnant women
- Parents/caregivers of infants under 6 months of age
- Children and young adults from 6 months to 24 years of age
- Individuals aged 25 to 64 years of age with underlying chronic conditions or who are immune compromised
- Health care providers and emergency medical services workers

"The 2009 H1N1 flu vaccine is free, so cost should not be a barrier to getting it," said Dr. Monroe.

"Eventually, there should be enough of the vaccine for everyone who wants it."

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) will be providing weekly updates on how much of the 2009 H1N1 flu vaccine has been distributed to the states. The Indiana State Department of Health will provide a link to that update each Friday at www.in.gov/flu.

As information becomes available from the local health departments, the State Health Department will post online where you can get the H1N1 flu vaccine at: www.in.gov/flu. Starting on Monday, October 5, the Department will also be offering a toll-free hotline for the public to call for information on the H1N1 flu and its vaccine. That number is 1-877-826-0011. It will be available from 8:30 a.m. to 4:45 p.m., Monday-Friday.

"Don't get the flu, don't spread the flu, get vaccinated now," said Dr. Monroe.

CDC H1N1 Vaccination Recommendations

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) has released 2009 H1N1 Vaccine Recommendations. An overview of those recommendations may be found at <http://www.cdc.gov/h1n1flu/vaccination/acip.htm>.

With the new H1N1 virus continuing to cause illness, hospitalizations and deaths in the US during the normally flu-free summer months and some uncertainty about what the upcoming flu season might bring, CDC's Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices has taken an important step in preparations for a voluntary 2009 H1N1 vaccination effort to counter a possibly severe upcoming flu season. On July 29, ACIP met to consider who should receive 2009 H1N1 vaccine when it becomes available. The 2009 H1N1 vaccination recommendations are available at <http://www.cdc.gov/mmwr/preview/mmwrhtml/rr58e0821a1.htm>.

Influenza Information for Health Professionals

CDC has published a Web page offering public health and healthcare professionals key information about vaccination, infection control, prevention, and diagnosis of seasonal influenza. The site includes guidance information, vaccine recommendations, training resources, patient education resources, clinical education information, and laboratory testing procedures. The information is available at <http://www.cdc.gov/flu/professionals/index.htm>.



The Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) and the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) are committed to the goal that by 2014, most Americans will have access to health care providers who use electronic health records. CMS recognizes the importance of the use of electronic health records and their benefits to better patient/resident care and reduced costs. On August 14, 2009, CMS issued Survey and Certification Letter 09-53 discussing the surveying of facilities that use electronic health records. The survey letter may be found at http://www.cms.hhs.gov/SurveyCertificationGenInfo/downloads/SCLetter09_53.pdf.

Recall Information

Children's and Infants' Tylenol Oral Suspension Products - Recall

[Posted 09/25/2009] McNeil Consumer Healthcare and FDA notified consumers of a nationwide recall of certain Tylenol products as a precautionary measure because of potential manufacturing problems. The company initiated a recall of certain oral suspension products distributed between March 2008 and May 2008 due to the potential of bacteria in raw materials used to manufacture the finished product. There are no illnesses reported by patients using this product. The full list of recalled product lots can be accessed on the company's website at http://www.tylenolprofessional.com/assets/TYLENOL_Letter_091809.pdf. McNeil is advising parents and caregivers who have administered affected product to their child or infant and have concerns to contact their healthcare providers. Parents and caregivers can find the lot numbers on the bottom of the box containing the product and also on the sticker that surrounds the product bottle.

[09/25/2009 - [News Release](#) - FDA]

GAO Report on Special Focus Facilities

The United States Government Accountability Office (GAO) released a report on CMS's special focus facility methodology. The GAO assessed CMS's special focus facility methodology, applied it on a nationwide basis using statistical scoring thresholds, and adopted several refinements to the methodology. Using this approach, GAO determined (1) the number of most poorly performing homes nationwide, (2) how their performance compared to that of homes identified using the methodology, and (3) the characteristics of such homes.

The GAO is recommending that the CMS Administrator consider a home's relative performance nationally when allocating special focus facilities across states and take actions to refine the special focus facility methodology to improve the identification of special focus facilities.

The report is available online at <http://www.gao.gov/new.items/d09689.pdf>.

Report on Improving Nutrition

New Report on Fruits and Vegetables Highlights Indiana's Environmental Supports and Policies to Improve Nutrition

INDIANAPOLIS -- The *State Indicator Report on Fruits and Vegetables, 2009* released today by the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), summarizes for the first time Indiana's data from multiple sources for fruit and vegetable consumption as well as policies and environmental supports that can make it easier for Hoosiers to eat more fruits and vegetables.

The *State Indicator Report* shows that Indiana, along with all other states in the country, is not meeting national objectives for consumption of fruits and vegetables. The consumption data come from the CDC's health surveillance systems.

The Healthy People 2010 outlines a goal of increasing the proportion of Americans eating at least two fruits daily to 75% and increasing the proportion of Americans eating at least three vegetables daily to 50%. Currently, only 30% and 26.4% of Indiana's adults met the goals, respectively, and only 26.8% and 12.3% of adolescents in grades 9-12 in Indiana met the goals, respectively.

"A diet high in fruits and vegetables is important for optimal child growth, management of weight, and prevention of chronic diseases," said Laura Hormuth, nutrition coordinator for the Division of Nutrition and Physical Activity at the Indiana State Department of Health. "This tool will help Indiana determine what is taking place in communities and schools and identify policies that can be improved to promote healthy eating among Hoosiers."

The new report highlights consumption and three key policy and environmental areas, including healthier food retail, availability of healthier foods in schools, and food system support. Some key Indiana findings are:

- 67.4% of census tracts in Indiana have healthier food retailers located within the tract or within 1/2 mile of tract boundaries, compared to a 72% national average.
- Only 31.7% of middle and high schools in Indiana offer fruits and non-fried vegetables as competitive foods, which is food sold outside the reimbursable school meal programs such as in vending machines, school stores, snack bars. This is over the national average of 20.9%.
- Indiana does not have a state-level Food Policy Council and or any local Food Policy Councils. Nationally, there are 20 states with a state-level policy and 59 local councils.

"Today's release of the *State Indicator Report* is very timely as we are hosting the 2009 INShape Summit today," said Hormuth. "This year's theme is "Health Lifestyles, Health Communities," and will showcase the strategies and resources available to improve the health of smaller communities. Some of the sessions will deal directly with locally grown fruit and vegetable consumption."

The *State Indicator Report on Fruits and Vegetable, 2009* is available from CDC's Division of Nutrition, Physical Activity and Obesity at <http://www.fruitsandveggiesmatter.gov/indicatorreport>.

The Indiana Healthy Weight Initiative is funded out of CDC's Division of Nutrition, Physical Activity, and Obesity (DNPAO). To find out more about Indiana's program, visit www.inhealthyweight.org.



That is all for this week. Best wishes for the coming week.

Terry Whitson
Assistant Commissioner
Indiana State Department of Health



Visit the ISDH home page at <http://www.in.gov/isdh/> for the latest public health information.

Visit the ISDH Division of Long Term Care home page at <http://www.in.gov/isdh/23260.htm> for information on long term care.