



STATE OF TENNESSEE
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Notice to Tennessee Medical Providers

Date: November 16, 2009

From: Veronica Gunn, MD, Chief Medical Officer

Re: 2009 H1N1 Pandemic Influenza Antiviral Distribution

The Tennessee Department of Health continues to respond to the 2009 H1N1 influenza virus now circulating in our communities and we continue to prepare for changes in the severity or spread of the disease.

We are asking pharmacists statewide to volunteer to dispense antiviral medications to uninsured and under-insured Tennesseans. This will provide them access to antiviral medications that they would not have otherwise. For this purpose, antivirals will be provided free of charge to pharmacists registered in the Tennessee Antiviral Distribution Network. Pharmacists will be able to fill prescriptions for pre-identified persons with valid prescriptions. Pharmacies may charge patients a standard dispensing fee, but will waive this fee for patients unable to afford it.

Medical providers are being asked to participate by screening individuals for insurance coverage and to designate “TDH Stockpile” clearly on prescriptions to those who are uninsured or under-insured. The medical providers would then direct individuals to have their prescription filled at participating pharmacy locations.

Providers and pharmacies are encouraged to use professional judgment in limiting these medications to patients *for whom it is clinically indicated* (high risk for influenza complications or severely ill) as per CDC recommendations.

Information regarding this program, including instructions for participation and locations of participating pharmacies, will be available on the Tennessee Department of Health (TDH) Web site (www.tn.gov/health). These pharmacy sites will not be actively advertised to the public.

If you have questions, please call: (866) 327-9106 or Email: SNS.Response@tn.gov. Additional information is available at the TDH Web site: www.tn.gov/health. In the Swine Flu/H1N1 Influenza box, click on the Information for Health Care Professional link, then locate the section, “Tennessee Antiviral Distribution Network”.

Thank you for your ongoing efforts to help ensure the health of Tennessee residents during the current influenza pandemic.