



INTERIM COMMISSIONER
Jon Weizenbaum

October 1, 2009

To: All Adult Day Care Facilities, Assisted Living Facilities, Home and Community Support Services Agencies, Intermediate Care Facilities for Persons with Mental Retardation or Related Conditions and Nursing Facilities

Subject: **Provider Letter 09-24** – H1N1 and Seasonal Influenza Guidance
(Replaces PL #09-10)

This letter provides information on H1N1 and seasonal flu. The U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) and state and local public health officials confirm the incidence of flu-like illnesses is increasing.

The Texas Department of State Health Services (DSHS) has prepared a web page with links to important influenza information provided by DSHS and CDC. You can access the page, which is frequently updated, at:

- <http://www.dshs.state.tx.us/txflu/default.shtm>

Information essential to congregate facilities can be found at:

- <http://www.dshs.state.tx.us/txflu/Guidance-CongregateFacilities.shtm>

The following link is to assist professionals in the decision-making process as it relates to the flu:

- <http://www.dshs.state.tx.us/txflu/DCHHS-H1N1.pdf>

Under "Families and Individuals," please read the following web page:

- <http://www.dshs.state.tx.us/txflu/flu-families.shtm>

Under "Related Links," at the bottom on the left-hand column, please refer to the following links for a listing of local health departments with their addresses and phone numbers:

- <http://www.dshs.state.tx.us/regions/lhds.shtm>
- <http://www.dshs.state.tx.us/regions/nonlhd.shtm>

The CDC has several pages of information on seasonal flu, H1N1 and infection control:

- <http://www.cdc.gov/flu/>
- <http://www.cdc.gov/h1n1flu/>
- <http://www.cdc.gov/flu/professionals/infectioncontrol>

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The Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services has provided guidance via Survey and Certification Memo 09-33 on the following web page:

- http://www.cms.hhs.gov/SurveyCertificationGenInfo/downloads/SCLetter09_33.pdf

The American Health Care Association/National Center for Assisted Living (AHCA/NCAL) has developed an H1N1 flu updates and resources page on its website. This page features memos prepared by AHCA/NCAL and “real time” updated posts by the CDC. Please check back often to see the latest developments at:

- http://www.ahcancal.org/facility_operations/clinical_practice/Pages/SwineFlu.aspx

If clicking on a web page does not bring it up, please copy and paste the link into the address bar on your web browser.

If you have questions about this information, please visit www.Texasflu.org or call 211 and ask for the flu call center.

Sincerely,

[signature on file]

Veronda L. Durden
Assistant Commissioner
Regulatory Services

VLD:ca