

Medical Assistance Transportation Program Memorandum MATP OPS # 11-2009-011

Date: 11/12/2009

Subject: MATP Transportation to H1N1 Vaccinations

To: All Statewide County MATP Program Offices

From: Tyrone E. Williams, Director, MATP

Purpose:

To provide guidance to all County MATP offices regarding transportation for Medical Assistance (MA) recipients to school H1N1 vaccine sites and Pennsylvania Department of Health (PA DOH) public health H1N1 vaccination clinics.

Background:

Access to the H1N1 vaccine is very important, especially for individuals that are in one or more of the priority groups as defined by the Centers for Disease Control:

- Persons between 6 months to 24 years of age
- Pregnant women
- Those under 65 with certain underlying medical conditions
- Parents, household members or caregivers of children under 6 months
- Healthcare providers and EMS personnel

To reduce the spread of H1N1 throughout the Commonwealth, the Pennsylvania Department of Health (PA DOH), is planning to establish clinics and other locations where individuals in the priority groups can receive the H1N1 (swine flu) vaccine.

Details are still not available and are dependent upon the availability of supplies of the H1N1 vaccine. However, this memorandum is intended to give County MATP offices advanced information about the potential need for transportation assistance for MA eligible recipients to school H1N1 vaccine sites and PA DOH public health H1N1 vaccination clinics.

Discussion:

The Department, in conjunction, with the PA DOH, is working to make the vaccine available through traditional MA-enrolled providers. However, there may be instances where the vaccine may be available through school H1N1 vaccine sites or PA DOH-sponsored public health H1N1 vaccination clinics that are not traditional MA provider sites where MA recipients are transported by MATP.

Therefore, in addition to arranging transportation to traditional MA enrolled medical facilities, physician's offices, hospitals, clinics, and pharmacies (as outlined in the MATP Instructions and Requirements) to obtain the H1N1 vaccine, the Department is allowing County MATP offices to coordinate transportation for MA-eligible recipients to school H1N1 vaccine sites and PA DOH-sponsored public health H1N1 vaccination clinics that may fall out of these categories.

Next Steps:

County MATP offices should seek to provide transport for H1N1 vaccinations within your normal operations. MA eligible recipients will still need to call their local MATP offices to arrange a trip to receive the H1N1 vaccine. Additional guidelines include:

- Counties should do their normal assessment of the most appropriate and least costly mode of transportation
- Counties should transport recipients to their school district's H1N1 vaccine sites or to the closest PA-DOH sponsored public health H1N1 vaccination clinic
- Counties should use their normal processes to verify that recipients arrived for medical treatment
- Counties could follow priority scheduling during peak demand (meaning counties would schedule vaccine trips when necessary rather than the time requested)
- Counties may also make arrangements to maximize the use of their resources by grouping trips for H1N1 vaccinations to school H1N1 vaccine sites or DOH sponsored public health H1N1. This would not apply to trips for medical appointments to traditional MA enrolled providers where the recipient could also be provided the H1N1 vaccine
- Counties can waive the one-hour rule (within reason) to accommodate trips to school H1N1 vaccine sites or PA-DOH sponsored public health H1N1 clinics
- Trips should be reported as normal in your monthly and quarterly reports

PA DOH will publish the locations and times of the PA DOH-sponsored public health H1N1 vaccination clinics on its website (<http://www.h1n1inpa.com/vaccines/h1n1-vaccine-locations-in-pa/>) once the locations have been finalized. PA DOH will also provide a toll free number that you can call to obtain information about the PA DOH-sponsored public health H1N1 vaccination clinics. We will provide that number once it becomes available.

Should you need additional guidance, please contact the Program Manager for your respective county.

Obsolete:

This MATP Operations Memo will remain in effect until further notice.