## TOWN OF SOMERS H1N1 Influenza Inoculation Plans Bulletin 20091101

The Town of Somers is making plans to provide clinics for the distribution of the H1N1 Flu Vaccine. The first clinics will provide vaccine to high risk groups, based on CDC guidelines, beginning with preschool children 6 months through age 4, and then move to K-5, 6-8 and high school grades. Parents of children aged 6 months through 4 years may pre-register their children aged 6 months through four years through this website. If you do not have access to a computer, you may call the Town Clerk's office at 860-763-8207 for registration information. Parents of school aged children (kindergarten through grade 12), will receive information from the Superintendent of Somers Schools about pre-registration.

We are requesting that all <u>parent(s)/guardian(s)</u> of <u>children aged 6 months through four years</u> <u>pre-register</u> for clinics through this website. Parents of school-aged children who may not have received the <u>superintendent's correspondence may access it here</u>. Separate pre-registrations are required for pre-school aged children (6 months through four years) and school-aged children (kindergarten through grade 12).

As vaccine becomes more readily available, clinics for other at-risk populations (as defined by the CDC) will be scheduled. In the meantime, if you are an adult in an at-risk population, we recommend you seek vaccine from your primary care physician. You may also register your interest in a future clinic by completing an <a href="Adult H1N1 Vaccine Interest form">Adult H1N1 Vaccine Interest form</a> on the Town Website. Check back to <a href="www.somersct.gov">www.somersct.gov</a> often for updates.

When clinics are scheduled, you will be notified based upon the contact information you provide when you pre-register your child(ren). The <a href="H1N1 Public Provider Vaccination Administration Record">H1N1 Public Provider Vaccination Administration</a> Record form must be completed and brought with you to any public clinic. When vaccine supply is received and a clinic or clinics are scheduled **children must be accompanied by a parent or legal guardian in order to receive the vaccine.** 

The date or dates for these clinics have not been established since we are not certain as to when the vaccine will be made available to us. Unfortunately, there is much uncertainty about the quantity and availability of the vaccines for each community across the state. However, we have begun to plan for a mass inoculation of preschool (aged 6 months through 4 years) and school-aged (kindergarten through grade 12) children should we receive a supply in the near future. As part of our planning, we are coordinating with the North Central District Health Department (NCDHD) and the Visiting Nurses Association (VNA) in order to administer the inoculations. Please note that this service is strictly voluntary and free of charge.

We are recommending to all parents to contact your family pediatrician for information about your child's medical status and whether or not they are in a high-priority group to receive the vaccine. Also, we encourage you to be proactive and to seek the vaccine through your family pediatrician rather than waiting for the town-run public clinics for this service. We are uncertain about our ability to provide vaccines for all children should the demand be made. Many details for our clinics need to be worked out in the coming weeks, and resources are limited. To help us with our planning, we are asking families to talk about this important matter now. There are many factors that will influence your final decision once the vaccine is available. For more information about the H1N1 virus or vaccine, please visit the CDC website: <a href="http://www.cdc.gov/h1n1flu/parents">http://www.cdc.gov/h1n1flu/parents</a> for information especially for parents.