



News Release
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State Pharmacy Regulation Changes May Help H1N1 Efforts

New changes give pharmacies more freedom

(Salt Lake County) – With recent changes to the Utah State Pharmacy Practice Act (PPA) regarding vaccine protocol, Salt Lake Valley Health Department (SLVHD) officials hope that getting an H1N1 vaccination may get easier for county residents and help the health department reach its goal to vaccinate as many people as quickly as possible. Under the new rules, pharmacists are now allowed to give H1N1 vaccinations to persons younger than 13 years old.

Until recently, pharmacists in Utah could only give injections to people 13 years old and above. Changes to the PPA now allow pharmacists to administer immunizations to eligible patients for all vaccine-appropriate ages; meaning that, if a vaccine is approved for people 2-years old and above, the pharmacist can administer it to anyone in that age range.

The pharmacies will still need to follow guidelines which may limit certain H1N1 vaccines to certain age groups such as the Novartis vaccine which is approved for persons 4 years of age and older, or the Sanofi-Pastuer vaccine approved for those 6 months of age and older. They must also still abide by the CDC vaccination priority groups until vaccine is made available to the general public. Finally, each individual retail group can impose their own restrictions such as not vaccinating anyone younger than 5 years old.

“This is great news and it should really help our vaccination efforts,” says Gary Edwards, Executive Director at SLVHD. “However, given all the variables that could be involved I recommend people call their local pharmacy for exact details.”

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During November, four retail pharmacy groups – Jolley’s Pharmacy, Harmons Grocery, Smith’s Food & Drug and Walgreens Pharmacies – have partnered with the health department in the Salt Lake County H1N1 vaccination efforts.

Other participating pharmacy locations are available on the SLVHD website at www.slvhealth.org. For questions related to obtaining an H1N1 vaccination, please call your individual Harmons, Jolley’s, Smith’s or Walgreens pharmacy.

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