INFLUENZA SEASON ALERT

In late December, CDC issued a HAN alert about cases of severe pH1N1 among younger healthier individuals across the country. Now flu season has arrived in California, with hospitalizations and deaths reported statewide. We encourage healthcare providers to continue to: Offer influenza Immunizations. Provide a strong recommendation and offer influenza immunizations to all patients 6 months of age and older, especially those at high risk for complications. All available vaccine formulations this season contain a pH1N1 component. If you do not offer flu vaccine, refer patients to the Online flu vaccine finder: http://flushot.healthmap.org/

Ensure that your staff gets the flu vaccine, too.

Make sure that sick patients get prompt care. Encourage all persons of all ages with influenza-like illness who are at high risk for influenza complications to seek care promptly to determine if treatment with influenza antiviral medications is warranted.

RESOURCES:

CDPH Advisory Severe Influenza H1N1 (PDF, New Window) Calif Dept of Pub Health Advisory Dec, 2013

CDPH Influenza Press Release

Flu education materials are available at: http://eziz.org/resources/flu-promo-materials/

Local Control Funding Formula (LCFF) and School Nurses

By Sheri Coburn, Ed.D., M.S., R.N., Director, Comprehensive Health, San Joaquin County Office of Education, Northern Section Past President

It is an unprecedented time in California schools. In June of 2013, the Legislature approved Governor Jerry Brown’s Local Control Funding Formula (LCFF) which has ignited educational fiscal reform. LCFF represents a historic shift in how California funds public schools. Rather than legislators mandating programs which determine how school district funds should be spent, LCFF shifts the focus on local decision-making, equity, accountability and transparency. Essentially, it lays the foundation for local education agencies to improve student outcomes and close the achievement gap, by identifying how school district funds will be spent. School districts must develop an eight-year implementation plan, with 2013-14 as the transition year.

The paradigm shift to reallocate local control of school funding places an emphasis on enlisting parental involvement and community engagement to serve as the trajectory in placing educational organizations on the right path to ensure all students have equal opportunities in school and in life.

What does this mean for school nurses? It means that local decisions for school nurse funding will come from community and parent input as well as key district decision makers and school board members. Now is really the time for school nurses to capitalize on the relationships they have built to advocate for more school nurses with in the districts. If we are not at the table this year while plans are being developed, we could possibly miss the chance for initial or additional funding for school nurses over the next eight years.

What to do? Find out when LCFF talks and input will be held. Link up with those who are developing the LCFF plan. It is often the district Federal and State Categorical person who has been charged with this responsibility. Ask questions and assert your role in supporting the district in this arena of supporting student outcomes.

Why are chronic absence and attendance such critical accountability measures? Chronic absence at any age is one of the best early warning indicators that a student is at risk academically. In California, the Local Control Funding Formula will for the first time require every district to establish annual goals and specific actions to reduce chronic absence as part of the development of local plans. This process offers lessons that can apply to any school or district in the nation seeking to use improved attendance as a lever to achieve more equitable outcomes. This webinar will help you:

1) determine whether chronic absence is a hidden problem in your school or district,
2) identify which schools and sub-groups of students require interventions to improve attendance,
3) provide guidance on what you can do to improve attendance, and
4) help you develop goals and activities to meet the requirements of the LCAP.
School violence lands more than 90,000 a year in the ER, study finds

Despite all the lip service given to battling bullying, many kids are still being seriously hurt while on school grounds, a new study shows. Each year more than 90,000 school children suffer “intentional” injuries severe enough to land them in the emergency room, according to the study published in Pediatrics.

Though there was a decrease in the number of intentional injuries at school over the last 10 years, it was minor, said study co-author Dr. Siraj Amanullah, an assistant professor of emergency medicine and pediatrics at the Alpert Medical School at Brown University. “We were surprised,” Amanullah said. “With so much emphasis on school safety and bullying now, we expected a bigger decline. Ninety-thousand per year is quite huge.” And keep in mind, Amanullah said, the study was only looking at kids who turned up in the ER. This could just be the tip of the iceberg.

?What do you think? One comment offered: “This is a very interesting article that perhaps should be shared with the legislators as to another reason why more nurses are needed in schools.”

LCFF Resources

For more information on LCFF, visit the following Websites:

- Association of California School Administrators (ACSA) at [http://www.acsa.org/MainMenuCategories/Advocacy/LCFF.aspx](http://www.acsa.org/MainMenuCategories/Advocacy/LCFF.aspx)

For more information and talking points on why school nursing services are important, visit the NASN Website at [www.nasn.org](http://www.nasn.org) and go to [http://www.nasn.org/AboutNASN/pressroom](http://www.nasn.org/AboutNASN/pressroom).

64th Annual CSNO Convention

The Capitol gardens (see below) are across the street from the convention headquarters at the Hyatt Regency Sacramento Hotel.

There will always be something to admire and a new friend to share it with when you join the early morning exercise walk before the convention sessions get underway. Have you registered? Over 300 of your school nurse colleagues are already making plans. If you have not looked at the Agenda, please click on this link to go to the [REGISTRATION WEBSITE](http://us3.campaign-archive1.com/?u=ebde1425744d1917d5f235e97&id=25ab5df834). Hotel reservations must be made separately on this with the [Hyatt Regency Sacramento](http://us3.campaign-archive1.com/?u=ebde1425744d1917d5f235e97&id=25ab5df834) or click [here](http://us3.campaign-archive1.com/?u=ebde1425744d1917d5f235e97&id=25ab5df834). To receive the discount on your sleeping room reservation you may call 916-443-1234 - be sure you say you are attending the CSNO convention. See YOU there!

Tips for Using Social Media:

ANA has developed a guide for use of social media. With the ability to share information readily come both benefits and risks in your personal and professional lives. Please read this one page [Fact Sheet](http://us3.campaign-archive1.com/?u=ebde1425744d1917d5f235e97&id=25ab5df834). If you are interested the complete guide is available for purchase on the ANA website: [www.nursingworld.org](http://us3.campaign-archive1.com/?u=ebde1425744d1917d5f235e97&id=25ab5df834).
Additional information/resources about this new law designed for parents, health care practitioners and schools is now available at www.shotsforschool.org including:

- Frequently asked questions about the new law. http://www.shotsforschool.org/pbe-faq/
- The standardized exemption (PBE) form that meets the requirements of Assembly Bill 2109. http://eziz.org/assets/docs/CDPH-8262.pdf (which may be downloaded at home or at school).
- The official PBE form is available in multiple languages
- Resources for parents and providers on vaccine-preventable diseases and the benefits and risks of immunizations

For the latest information regarding school immunization requirements in California, visit www.shotsforschool.org. If you have additional questions or concerns not addressed on shotsforschool.org, please contact the California Department of Public Health, Immunization Branch at info@shotsforschool.org.