

RELATED TERMS

- Influenza
- State and Local Public Health Departments
- Mass Prophylaxis



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PRIMARY DISCIPLINES

- Public Health
- Healthcare

PRACTICE NOTE

Vaccine Inventory: The Minnesota Department of Health's Internet-based Vaccine Tracking Program

PRACTICE

The Minnesota Department of Health (MDH) uses an Internet-based data collection program to track influenza vaccine orders placed and received by healthcare facilities throughout the state. This program enables state and local public health officials to compare vaccine availability with vaccine needs throughout the state and helps MDH facilitate vaccine redistribution if needed.

DESCRIPTION

A nationwide vaccine shortage during the 2004-05 influenza season forced state and local public health departments to reallocate limited vaccine supplies to high-risk populations such as the elderly, infants, and people with chronic health conditions. The MDH redistributed the vaccine based on quick surveys of vaccine supplies and patient needs in each of the state's 87 counties. MDH officials found gaps in the data gathered on vaccine supply and determined that a more streamlined data collection system was needed.

In February 2005, the MDH began developing an Internet-based data collection program that inventories vaccine orders. The program provides local public health departments with contact information for healthcare providers in their county so that they may contact these providers directly. It also specifies the type of data that public health officials should solicit from local providers, such as the number of vaccine doses ordered from different manufacturers, the use of vaccine distributors, the number of doses ordered for healthcare facility staff, and each facility's pediatric patient population. Local public health officials enter this data into database tables in the Internet-based program.

The MDH first used the program during the 2005-06 influenza season. Local public health departments immediately realized they could not update vaccine order information as orders were received. MDH officials have since corrected this shortcoming by enabling local public health departments to update information on vaccine orders received.

State public health officials can compare this data with estimates on the vaccine needs of the state's priority populations. In a vaccine shortage situation, this information will help MDH direct redistribution efforts.

CITATIONS

Roddy, Margaret F., Denice Tracy, and Kristen Ehresmann. "A Local and State Partnership for Influenza Preparedness: The Minnesota Influenza Vaccine Inventory Log," *Journal of Public Health Management Practice*. Jul/Aug 2006.

Roddy, Margaret F. Minnesota Department of Health. Interview with *Lessons Learned Information Sharing*, 4 Dec 2006.

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