**Kentucky Department for Public Health**

**Guidelines for the Disposal of Expired H1N1 Influenza Vaccine**

**February 5, 2010**

Providers are strongly encouraged to utilize unexpired H1N1 influenza vaccine and not dispose of vaccine or return vaccine before the expiration date. Please continue to offer the H1N1 influenza vaccine to your patients as the potential for additional waves of H1N1 influenza activity still exists.

Expired H1N1 influenza vaccine products may not be returned to the distributor; therefore providers are asked to dispose of the vaccine appropriately. This document outlines steps to take for the proper disposal of expired H1N1 influenza vaccine and unused ancillary supplies.

Per the “2009 Influenza A (H1N1) Monovalent Vaccine Provider Agreement,” community H1N1 influenza providers should report to the health department the number of expired H1N1 influenza vaccine doses that were not used due to vaccine expiration or vaccine wastage. This information is reported using the attached “Kentucky Department for Public Health H1N1 Vaccine Disposal Form.” This form must be mailed or faxed to your local health department using the fax number you place on the attached disposal form. Please keep a copy of all returned forms for your records.

**How to Dispose of Expired H1N1 Influenza Vaccine, Vials and Ancillary Supplies**

Multidose vials should be disposed of in a sharps container.

Pre‐filled syringes and intranasal spray (LAIV) (without needles attached) should be disposed of in a medical waste container (red bag) or a sharps container.

All syringes with a needle attached must be disposed of in a sharps container.

According to the CDC, recipients of unused ancillary supplies (needles) that were originally intended to be used for H1N1 vaccine administration may use the ancillary supplies to provide other clinical services in your practice, donate them or dispose of them in a sharps container. However, the CDC cannot be liable for any malfunctions or misuse of the supplies.  If you wish to donate unused ancillary H1N1 supplies to a charitable organization, we recommend that you draft a statement to accompany the supplies, relieving the health department and CDC of liability for any malfunctions or misuse.

If the cost of disposing of the expired H1N1 influenza vaccine or unused supplies presents a difficulty for the provider, sharps containers containing expired H1N1 influenza vaccine and/or unused supplies may be returned to the local health department for disposal.