



NEWS RELEASE
Governor Jon S. Corzine
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GOVERNOR ANNOUNCES NEW JERSEY TO RECEIVE \$10 MILLION IN FEDERAL FUNDING FOR H1N1 RESPONSE

TRENTON – Governor Jon S. Corzine announced today that the New Jersey Department of Health and Senior Services (DHSS) will be awarded \$10 million in federal funding to enhance the state's efforts to deal with the fall 2009 H1N1 Influenza season.

“New Jersey is grateful that the Obama administration recognizes the importance of planning for the possibility that H1N1 Influenza may return in a more serious form,” said Governor Corzine. “It is crucial that New Jersey continue its preparedness efforts as health experts continue to watch H1N1 Influenza to determine how it will affect us in the fall.”

The funding from the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services is part of \$350 million in preparedness grants that are being distributed nationwide to state, county and local health agencies and health care facilities to coordinate efforts for H1N1 Influenza response.

New Jersey was notified that it will receive more than \$7.4 million for local, county and state health preparedness efforts and \$2.6 million to ensure that health care delivery systems are ready for any surge of patients.

“New Jersey is using the summer months to continue its planning efforts and we will work with our health care partners during the statewide Influenza Planning Summit to determine the best way to use this funding,” said Health and Senior Services Commissioner Heather Howard.

In mid-July, DHSS kicked off its statewide Influenza Pandemic Preparedness Summit, comprising five days of meetings that bring local health, hospital, homeland security, emergency management and other officials together to coordinate efforts. The summit will continue on August 20-21 and conclude with a September 29 meeting.

“We will work with our partners during the pandemic influenza summit to help determine the best way to fund our preparedness efforts,” said Commissioner Howard.

The goal of the summit is to enhance pandemic preparedness across government, in the private sector and throughout the healthcare system. Summit participants will include representatives from local health departments, local and state Offices of Emergency Management, Federally Qualified Health Centers, hospitals, the Department of Health and Senior Services and other cabinet-level agencies.

DHSS is also working with the New Jersey Department of Education to sponsor an H1N1 summit for chief school administrators and county health officers on Tuesday, August 25, at the Crown Plaza Hotel in Monroe.

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