



JONATHAN E. FIELDING, M.D., M.P.H.
Director and Health Officer

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Chief Deputy Director

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September 30, 2010

Dear Physician:

We are writing to notify you that the Los Angeles County (LAC) Department of Public Health (DPH) is **removing Guillain-Barré syndrome (GBS) from its list of reportable diseases** as of September 30, 2010. We thank the physician community in LAC for participating in GBS surveillance in 2009-2010. Enhanced surveillance for GBS was important in confirming the safety of 2009 pandemic H1N1 influenza vaccination.

Although GBS reporting is **no longer mandated** by LAC DPH after September 30, 2010, **the State of California Department of Public Health (CDPH) is continuing to conduct surveillance for GBS statewide**. CDPH is continuing GBS surveillance because the pandemic H1N1 influenza strain is included in the 2010-2011 seasonal influenza vaccine, and because of the introduction of FluZone High-Dose[®], which contains four times the standard dose of influenza antigens.

You are requested to report new cases of GBS, regardless of vaccine history, diagnosed between September 30, 2010 and May 1, 2011, directly to CDPH via a Case Report Form. Case Report Forms may be downloaded from the CDPH website <http://www.cdph.ca.gov/HealthInfo/discond/Pages/GBSSurveillance.aspx> and faxed to CDPH at 916-440-5969. CDPH will continue to offer enhanced diagnostic testing of patient clinical specimens for diseases that are possible infectious etiologies or triggers of GBS.

We are grateful for the assistance of the physician community in Los Angeles County during this important vaccine safety monitoring effort. For questions regarding the CDPH GBS surveillance program and specimen requests, please contact Jacqueline Chan at CDPH, GBSReport@cdph.ca.gov.

Sincerely,

Jonathan E. Fielding, M.D., M.P.H.
Director and Health Officer

Laurene Mascola, M.D., M.P.H., F.A.A.P.
Chief, Acute Communicable Disease Control Program

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- c: Moon Kim, M.D., M.P.H.
- Caitlin Reed, M.D., M.P.H.
- Carol Glaser, D.V.M., M.D., M.P.V.M.
- Kathleen Harriman, Ph.D., M.P.H., R.N.



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September 30, 2010

Dear Hospital GBS Surveillance Coordinator:

We are writing to notify you that the Los Angeles County (LAC) Department of Public Health (DPH) is **removing Guillain-Barré syndrome (GBS) from its list of reportable diseases** as of September 30, 2010. We thank all LAC hospitals for participating in GBS surveillance through ICD-9 code searches in 2009-2010. Enhanced surveillance for GBS was important in confirming the safety of 2009 pandemic H1N1 influenza vaccination.

Although GBS reporting is **no longer mandated** by LAC DPH after September 30, 2010, **the State of California Department of Public Health (CDPH) is continuing to conduct surveillance for GBS statewide until May 2011.** CDPH is continuing GBS surveillance because the pandemic H1N1 influenza strain is included in the 2010-2011 seasonal influenza vaccine, and because of the introduction of FluZone High-Dose[®], which contains four times the standard dose of influenza antigens.

You are requested to report GBS cases identified weekly by ICD-9 code search for 357.0, regardless of vaccine history, admitted **between September 30, 2010 and May 1, 2011.** Cases should be reported to the same website <http://www.calpanflu.org/gbs/>.

We are grateful for the assistance of the medical community in Los Angeles County in this important vaccine safety monitoring effort. For questions regarding the CDPH GBS surveillance program, please contact Jacqueline Chan at CDPH, GBSReport@cdph.ca.gov.

Sincerely,

Jonathan E. Fielding, M.D., M.P.H.
Director and Health Officer

Laurene Mascola, M.D., M.P.H., F.A.A.P.
Chief, Acute Communicable Disease Control Program

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