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Director and Health Officer

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September 29, 2009

Dear Physician:

Effective immediately, the Los Angeles County (LAC) Department of Public Health (DPH) is **adding Guillain-Barré syndrome (GBS) to its list of reportable diseases** by authority of the Health Officer under California Code of Regulations, Title 17, Section 2500. Physicians are hereby ordered to report all newly diagnosed cases of GBS to the DPH. Confirmed or suspected cases must be reported within **seven (7) working days** using a GBS reporting form; the form is attached, or may be downloaded from the LAC DPH website at <http://www.ph.lacounty.gov/acd/EpiForms.htm>. The GBS reporting form may be faxed to the Acute Communicable Disease Control Program at (213) 482-4856 or called in during normal business hours to Dr. Caitlin Reed or Dr. Moon Kim at (213) 240-7941. GBS reporting will be in effect for one year, until September 30, 2010.

During the 1976 swine influenza vaccination campaign, an increase in GBS was noted among vaccine recipients. There is no indication from the initial Food and Drug Administration safety and efficacy studies that the pandemic (H1N1) 2009 vaccine will pose a risk of GBS. However, in anticipation of widespread vaccination this fall, the LAC DPH is conducting enhanced surveillance for GBS.

GBS is an acute flaccid paralysis that may occur after infection with a variety of pathogens, including *Campylobacter*, herpesviruses, influenza viruses, enteroviruses, and *Mycoplasma pneumoniae*, and very rarely after various vaccinations. In the majority of cases, the trigger for GBS is not known. We will be conducting enhanced surveillance to look for any increase in GBS cases above the expected annual baseline reported in the medical literature of 1-2 cases per 100,000 people. Thus, all newly diagnosed cases should be reported, regardless of vaccination status.

For more information on GBS, please consult the LAC DPH website at <http://publichealth.lacounty.gov>. For other questions regarding this enhanced surveillance program, please contact Dr. Caitlin Reed or Dr. Moon Kim at the Acute Communicable Disease Control Program at (213) 240-7941.

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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Attachment

c: Moon Kim, M.D., M.P.H.
Caitlin Reed, M.D., M.P.H.

