



# Kansas Insurance Department

Sandy Praeger, Commissioner of Insurance

---

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

August 24, 2009

*For more information, contact:*

Bob Hanson  
Public Information Officer  
785-296-7807  
bhanson@ksinsurance.org

## Insurance Department, KDHE officials urge health insurers to provide resources, information for H1N1 vaccinations

TOPEKA, Kan. — In an effort to minimize the potential negative public health and financial impacts of the H1N1 influenza A virus, Kansas Insurance Commissioner Sandy Praeger and Kansas State Health Officer Jason Eberhart-Phillips, M.D., issued a joint letter today to Kansas health insurers asking for assistance in education and vaccination procedures.

The letter was sent electronically to 164 health companies and insurance officials today, coinciding with Governor Mark Parkinson's H1N1 flu summit, which was broadcast by video conference to six locations throughout the state.

“In our letter, Dr. Eberhart-Phillips and I are trying to encourage the insurers to do whatever they can to educate Kansans and encourage them to get vaccinated against the virus,” Commissioner Praeger said. “We are also asking them to make it easy for their insureds to get benefits for vaccinations and treatment if necessary.”

The letter specifically asks health insurers to consider the following:

- Review programs and internal policies to address coverage for administration of the vaccine.
- Ensure that as many Kansans as possible are vaccinated against seasonal influenza.
- Review drug coverage and formulary requirements to ensure access to flu inhibitors Tamiflu and Relenza.
- Consider providing educational information to insureds and health care providers.
- Develop a plan to communicate pandemic-related changes in policies.
- Establish toll-free hotlines, dedicated Web site and recorded messages to communicate to health care providers, vendors, employers and suppliers.
- Coordinate responses with both the Kansas Insurance Department (KID) and the Kansas Department of Health and Environment.

-More-

A link to the complete letter sent to the health insurers can be found on the home page of KID Web site, [www.ksinsurance.org](http://www.ksinsurance.org).

-30-

*The Kansas Insurance Department, established in 1871, assists and educates consumers, regulates and reviews companies and licenses agents selling insurance products in the state. More about the department is online at [www.ksinsurance.org](http://www.ksinsurance.org).*