



THE SECRETARY OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES

WASHINGTON, D.C. 20201

December 11, 2009

Dear Health Care Provider Organization:

Providers are the most credible and influential source of vaccine information for the public. We need your help in spreading the word that the H1N1 vaccine is safe, effective, and the best defense against the flu.

To demonstrate to Americans the strong support for vaccination, and for the H1N1 vaccine, we are developing a joint open letter that we want to post on www.flu.gov and on the web sites of state public health departments around the country. We are using this occasion to advise you of the letter and the voluntary opportunity to sign it to demonstrate your support for the H1N1 vaccine.

Those providers who choose to sign the joint open letter will not only have their leadership featured, but could also help in getting millions more Americans vaccinated. This is one of the top requests we get from state public health officials; they say that they need help assuring Americans – especially African American, Hispanic, and hard-to-reach communities – that this is a safe and effective vaccine.

Again, participation in this letter is voluntary, but we hope you will lend your voice of support to encourage more Americans to get the 2009 H1N1 vaccine by signing the "*Open Letter to the American People*." If you would like to add your support, please send the name of the leader who will sign the letter, your organization, and an electronic logo that can be included to eocvacomm@cdc.gov, or call Dr. Kristine Sheedy at 404-553-8122 by **Tuesday, December 15, 2009**.

Thank you for your continued support, and for your perseverance in working to fight the flu and protect the health of all Americans.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Kathleen Sebelius". The signature is fluid and cursive.

Kathleen Sebelius