

# H1N1 Vaccine Available to General Public

## *Target Groups to Remain a Priority for Health Care Providers*

The Department of Health Services (DHS) announces today that public health departments and private health care providers have been notified that they may start vaccinating members of the general public. However, DHS has instructed all health care providers to continue efforts to reach out to and vaccinate those in the CDC target groups.

“With more than 1.5 million doses of H1N1 vaccine in the state, we have reached a point where we can begin to offer the vaccine to individuals outside of the target group populations,” said State Health Officer Dr. Seth Foldy. “While this is good news, it should not be interpreted as an indication that those most-at-risk have all been vaccinated. Protecting pregnant women, everyone under the age of 24 and those with underlying health conditions remain our top priority.”

H1N1 activity is expected to continue throughout the influenza season and DHS recommends that all individuals, especially those on the CDC target list, get vaccinated as another wave of H1N1 cases could occur later this season. The H1N1 vaccine is safe and effective and even those who’ve had flu-like symptoms should be vaccinated as there are a variety of respiratory illnesses that circulate during cold and flu season. Children age 10 and under require two doses of the H1N1 vaccine, with an optimal time of four weeks between first and second doses.

For the last several weeks, DHS has been closely monitoring the vaccine supply and distribution at public and private vaccination sites across the state. The decision to expand to the general public has been discussed with the major hospital systems and public health directors.

In addition, DHS will begin distribution of H1N1 vaccine to pharmacies across the state, which will significantly increase the number of vaccination sites available to the general public. Some pharmacies may not be able to vaccinate children, so DHS recommends checking with the pharmacy before bring children to the vaccination site.

People may call 2-1-1 to find out an H1N1 or seasonal influenza vaccine clinic nearest them. A “clinic finder” is also available online at <http://pandemic.wisconsin.gov> or [www.wisconsinfluclinic.info](http://www.wisconsinfluclinic.info).

2009 H1N1 Influenza "Message of the Day"  
Wisconsin Division of Public Health

Current as of September 24, 2009

Today's Message: If You Think You Have 2009 H1N1 Flu, Call Before Going to Your Health Care Provider

- If you live in areas where people have been identified with 2009 H1N1 flu and you become ill with influenza-like symptoms (fever, body aches, runny or stuffy nose, sore throat, nausea, or vomiting or diarrhea):

- o Call your health care provider. Your health care provider will determine whether flu testing or treatment is needed.
- o CDC recommends that you stay home for at least 24 hours after your fever is gone except to get medical care or for other necessities. (Your fever should be gone without the use of a fever-reducing medicine.) Stay away from others as much as possible to keep from making others sick.
- o Staying at home means that you should not leave your home except to seek medical care. This means avoiding normal activities, including work, school, travel, shopping, social events, and public gatherings.

- If you have severe illness or you are at high risk for flu complications, call your health care provider or seek immediate medical attention. In adults, emergency warning signs that need urgent medical attention include:

- o Difficulty breathing or shortness of breath
- o Pain or pressure in the chest or abdomen
- o Sudden dizziness
- o Confusion
- o Severe or persistent vomiting

- o Flu-like symptoms improve but then return with fever and worse cough

In children, emergency warning signs that need urgent medical attention include:

- o Fast breathing or trouble breathing
- o Bluish or gray skin color
- o Not drinking enough fluids
- o Severe or persistent vomiting
- o Not waking up or not interacting
- o Being so irritable that the child does not want to be held
- o Flu-like symptoms improve but then return with fever and worse cough

2009 H1N1 Influenza "Message of the Day"  
Wisconsin Division of Public Health

Current as of September 23, 2009

Today's Message:

Health Care Volunteers Needed for Vaccination Clinics

- Many local health departments need health care professionals to volunteer to help conduct mass vaccination clinics this fall.
  - o Physicians
  - o Physician assistants
  - o Nurses (R.N.s, L.P.N.s)
  - o Pharmacists
  - o Medical assistants
  - o Administrative services (operations, clerical, data entry)
- Contact your local public health agency about your willingness to help.
- Some local health departments are working with their local Medical Reserve Corps Unit, especially in southeast Wisconsin. For more information on joining an MRC in Wisconsin, go to <http://dhs.wisconsin.gov/preparedness/MRC/index.htm>
- Another way to volunteer is through the Wisconsin Emergency Assistance Volunteer Registry. WEAVR is an on-line volunteer registration system for health care and behavioral health professionals.
  - o It provides health care and behavioral health professionals with an easy way to indicate their interest in volunteer service following a catastrophic emergency incident.
  - o The WEAVR skills profile section of the registry asks volunteers to indicate their expertise by degree, licensure, certification, and by specific skills.
  - o Volunteers can update their individual contact information at any time. The registry also helps the Department of Health Services maintain volunteer information in a confidential, central location.
  - o For more information:  
<http://dhs.wisconsin.gov/preparedness/WEAVR/>

2009 H1N1 Influenza “Message of the Day”  
Wisconsin Division of Public Health

September 22, 2009

**Today's Message:**

*Emergency Medical Services and Health Care Workers Need 2009 H1N1 Vaccine  
to Protect Others*

- Emergency medical services and health care workers are likely to come in contact with influenza viruses as part of their occupation.
- They interact with many patients and other individuals, some of whom are vulnerable to severe complications from influenza infection.
  - If workers are exposed to 2009 H1N1 virus and not vaccinated against it, they can possibly transmit the 2009 H1N1 virus to many others in a healthcare facility and other settings.
  - This could lead to a far greater and more serious outbreak.
- Having a healthy emergency response and health care work force is vital to protecting the health and safety of the public.

2009 H1N1 Influenza “Message of the Day”  
Wisconsin Division of Public Health

Current as of September 21, 2009

The 2009 H1N1 Vaccine Is Safe

- The U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) has approved the 2009 H1N1 Influenza vaccine for use.
- The 2009 H1N1 influenza vaccine is produced in the same way that the seasonal vaccine is, and thus is expected to have the same very good safety track record.
  - o Over the years, hundreds of millions of Americans have received seasonal flu vaccines.
  - o The most common side effects following flu vaccinations are mild, such as soreness, redness, tenderness or swelling where the shot was given.
  - o The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) and the FDA will be closely monitoring for any signs that the vaccine is causing unexpected adverse events
  - o CDC will work with state and local health officials to investigate any unusual events.
- CDC expects that any side effects following vaccination with the 2009 H1N1 influenza vaccine will be rare.
  - o If side effects occur, they will likely be similar to those experienced following seasonal influenza vaccine.
  - o Mild problems that may be experienced include soreness, redness, or swelling where the shot was given, fainting (mainly adolescents), headache, muscle aches, fever, and nausea. If these problems occur, they usually begin soon after the shot and last 1-2 days.
  - o Life-threatening allergic reactions to vaccines are very rare. If they do occur, it is usually within a few minutes to a few hours after the shot is given.

Current as of September 18th, 2009

Today's Message: Pregnant women should protect themselves against the 2009 H1N1 Influenza Virus

- In comparison to the general population, a greater proportion of pregnant women infected with the 2009 H1N1 influenza virus have been hospitalized. In addition, severe illness and death has occurred in pregnant women. Six percent of confirmed fatal 2009 H1N1 flu cases thus far have been in pregnant women while only about 1 percent of the general population is pregnant.
- Hand washing, staying away from ill people, and other steps can help to protect pregnant women from influenza, but vaccination is the single best way to protect against the flu.
- CDC has identified pregnant women as a primary target group for the 2009 H1N1 influenza vaccine.
- Pregnant women should get the "flu shot."
  - The flu shot is approved for use in pregnant women.
  - Nasal-spray flu vaccine is not currently approved for use in pregnant women.
- Influenza vaccines have not been shown to cause harm to a pregnant woman or her baby.
  - Because some women are concerned about exposure to preservatives during pregnancy, manufacturers will produce preservative-free seasonal and 2009 H1N1 influenza vaccines in single dose syringes for pregnant women and small children.