



# H1N1 Vaccine

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# Seasonal influenza vaccine

- Plenty of vaccine expected this year
  - Some arriving already
- Age & risk groups previously recommended have not changed this year
- All children aged 6 months through 18 years are recommended to receive annual vaccination



# Seasonal influenza vaccine

- MDH recommends that clinics start vaccinating as soon as vaccine become available and continue to vaccinate throughout the season
- No evidence of waning immunity in those vaccinated in late summer or early fall



# Seasonal vs. H1N1 vaccine

- Seasonal flu vaccine campaigns have traditionally focused on the elderly
- This pandemic is striking a much younger population, including pregnant women
- As vaccine supply for younger age groups is met, vaccination will be offered to those in the older age groups

# H1N1 Vaccine



- Possibly a large amount of vaccine by late October or November
  - Hard to estimate when vaccine will be available in large quantities
  - Dose estimates change on a weekly basis
- Vaccine may be available in limited quantities as early as the end of September
- There will be some preservative-free vaccine for young children and pregnant women.
- This is a completely voluntary vaccination campaign

# H1N1 Vaccine Manufacturing

- The five manufacturers that already produce US-licensed seasonal vaccine are making H1N1 vaccine
  - Flu shots: GSK, Sanofi Pasteur, Novartis, CSL
  - FluMist (nasal spray): Medimmune
- The H1N1 flu vaccine is just like the yearly (seasonal) flu vaccine, which is reformulated every year to protect against new flu viruses.
- It's manufactured using the same process and facilities.

# H1N1 Vaccine Clinical Trials

- Clinical trials investigate the efficacy of the vaccine
  - Is the dose size (amount of antigen) correct?
  - Is an adjuvant necessary? (Probably not)
  - Should people get 1 or 2 shots?
  - Can people get a seasonal flu shot at the same time as a H1N1 flu shot?

# H1N1 Vaccine Distribution

- Minnesota is in the process of developing a vaccine delivery plan.
- Vaccine will probably be available in many of the same locations people currently get seasonal flu shots:
  - Local public health, medical clinics, college health centers, pharmacies, etc
- And possibly some new locations:
  - Schools, ob/gyns, etc.
- Clinics that want to give H1N1 vaccine are pre-registering with the Minnesota Department of Health



# Cost of H1N1 Vaccine

- All H1N1 vaccine will be purchased by the federal government and provided to vaccinators at no cost
  - Government will also provide needles, syringes, sharps containers, and alcohol pads
- Clinicians may charge an administration fee for the costs associated with giving the shot
  - AHIP (America's Health Insurance Plans) has issued a statement in favor of covering administration fees

# Will some people be able to get the H1N1 flu vaccine before others?

- ACIP (Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices) recommended that initial vaccination efforts focus on five key populations:
  - all pregnant women
  - healthcare and emergency services personnel,
  - all people 6 months through 24 years of age
  - people who live with or care for children younger than 6 months of age, and
  - people aged 25 through 64 years who have health conditions associated with higher risk of medical complications from influenza.
- ~2.7 million Minnesotans



# If less vaccine is available?

- If vaccine is available in insufficient amounts for the initial priority groups, the following groups would be prioritized:
  - pregnant women,
  - healthcare and emergency services personnel with direct patient contact,
  - children 6 months through 4 years of age,
  - people who live with or care for children younger than 6 months of age, and
  - children 5 through 18 years of age who have chronic medical conditions.
- ~718,000 Minnesotans

# Why aren't people age 65 years & older on the priority list?

- The majority of H1N1 flu cases are in people under 50 years old and the average age of hospitalization for H1N1 flu is 37 years of age. Scientists believe that people over 50 may have some immunity to H1N1 influenza.
- H1N1 flu seems to be affecting younger persons more than the elderly, so CDC has not made vaccinating people age 65 years and older a priority.
- However, CDC expects eventually to have enough vaccine for anyone who wants it. People age 65 years and older should be able to get vaccinated if they want to be.



## Further resources

- The Minnesota Department of Health Website:  
<http://www.health.state.mn.us>
  - Click on “H1N1 Novel Influenza Information” and then “H1N1 Novel Influenza Vaccine”
- The CDC Website:  
<http://cdc.gov/h1n1flu/vaccination/>