



Making It Better, Together.

## Novel H1N1 (swine) Flu Vaccine

### What is the flu shot?

There are two flu shots this year. The **seasonal flu shot** which protects you from catching the three most common seasonal flu viruses that are expected for the year. The **H1N1 (swine) flu shot** provides protection from the H1N1 flu virus. Make sure when inquiring about the availability of the vaccine to say which type of flu shot (seasonal or H1N1) you are referring to.

**Who can be vaccinated first with the 2009 H1N1 influenza vaccine that comes to New Jersey?** *(Please note that the first doses of 2009 H1N1 vaccine that arrived in NJ are the nasal mist which is not recommended for all individuals within the priority groups.)*

- **Pregnant women** because they are at higher risk of complications and can potentially provide protection to infants who cannot be vaccinated;
- **Household contacts and caregivers for children younger than 6 months of age** because younger infants are at higher risk of influenza-related complications and cannot be vaccinated. Vaccination of those in close contact with infants younger than 6 months old might help protect infants by “cocooning” them from the virus;
- **Healthcare and emergency medical services personnel** because infections among healthcare workers have been reported and this can be a potential source of infection for vulnerable patients. Also, increased absenteeism in this population could reduce healthcare system capacity;
- **All people from 6 months through 24 years of age:**
  - **Children from 6 months through 18 years of age** because cases of 2009 H1N1 influenza have been seen in children who are in close contact with each other in school and day care settings, which increases the likelihood of disease spread;
  - **Young adults 19 through 24 years of age** because many cases of 2009 H1N1 influenza have been seen in these healthy young adults and they often live, work, and study in close proximity, and they are a frequently mobile population;
- **Persons aged 25 through 64 years who have health conditions associated with higher risk of medical complications from the flu.**

### I'm a senior citizen (over 65). Should I get a 2009 H1N1 flu shot?

While seniors are traditionally among those at higher risk for complications from seasonal flu, this does not appear to hold true with H1N1. Individuals age 65 and older so far have been less susceptible to catching the H1N1 flu. For seniors, it is more important to get a seasonal flu vaccine. Seniors may also want to talk to their health care providers about getting a pneumonia vaccine.

**I am not in a priority group. Will I get turned away at the clinic? When do I get vaccinated?**

Priority groups will be vaccinated first, there is expected to be enough vaccine available to vaccinate everyone who wants it after the priority group has been vaccinated. If you have concerns, contact your health care provider.

**Where can I get a 2009 H1N1 flu shot?**

There will be more than 2300 sites in New Jersey that will have vaccine shipped directly from the Center for Disease Control. But there will be many more locations throughout the state that will offer 2009 H1N1 vaccinations: health care providers' offices, community health centers, schools, county and local health departments, and retail pharmacies.

H1N1 flu vaccine will be distributed to New Jersey (and across the country) in staggered shipments. Right now, it is very early in that process and a limited supply of vaccine is being delivered. We expect more in November and December. Both the nasal mist and the injectable form of the vaccine will be available for several months and there is expected to be enough vaccine for everyone who wants to get vaccinated.

**Will I be able to get a vaccination at my doctor's office?**

Check with your doctor's office to see if they have received or will be receiving the vaccine in the near future. If they do not have the vaccine now but will be receiving it in the future, ask the procedure for notification (i.e. should you keep calling or will they take your name and call you when the vaccine arrives).

**Where will I be able to get a vaccination at a community site?**

Check your local papers or [www.camdencounty.com](http://www.camdencounty.com) for public clinics being held for specific target groups. You can also call the NJ hotline at 866-321-9571 or check the NJ State website <http://web.doh.state.nj.us/apps2/flu/fluschedules.aspx> for public health locations in your area. Individuals in priority groups for vaccination can go to any public health clinic to receive the vaccine, regardless of which county they live in NJ. *After we are certain that all priority groups in NJ who want the vaccine have received it, it will be available to the general public. At that time, public health clinics may give preference to their county residents.*

**Will I be able to get a vaccination at my local pharmacy?**

Check with your local pharmacy to see if the vaccine is available.

**ADDITIONAL INFORMATION RESOURCES**

Center for Disease Control: [www.cdc.gov/h1n1flu/](http://www.cdc.gov/h1n1flu/)

NJDHSS: [www.nj.gov/health/flu/h1n1/](http://www.nj.gov/health/flu/h1n1/)

Camden County: 1-800-999-9045 or [www.camdencounty.com](http://www.camdencounty.com)

NJ Flu hotline: 1-866-321-9571