



# H1N1 (Swine Flu) Vaccinations



The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention's (CDC) Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices (ACIP) has made recommendations on who should receive the H1N1 vaccine when it becomes available. Factors that were considered in making the recommendation include: current disease patterns, populations at most risk for severe illness, hospitalizations and deaths, how much vaccine is expected to be available, and the timing of vaccine availability.

Since availability and demand for the vaccine are hard to predict, the ACIP has also recommended specific groups at higher risk from complications of H1N1 influenza who should be immunized first if there is a shortage. These groups have been identified as Tier I, Tier II, and Tier III. Once demand from each group has been met, vaccinations will be offered to the next tier.

## Tier I

When there is a vaccine shortage, the following groups will receive the vaccine before others:

- **pregnant women** - they are at higher risk of complications.
- **people who live with or care for children younger than 6 months of age** - infants are at higher risk of complications and cannot be vaccinated. Vaccinating those in close contact with infants may help protect them.
- **health care and emergency medical services personnel with direct patient contact** - because they can be a potential source of infection for vulnerable patients. Increased absenteeism of these workers could reduce healthcare system abilities.
- **children 6 months through 4 years of age** - they are in close contact with each other in day care and school which increases the likelihood of disease spread.
- **children 5 - 18 years of age who have chronic medical conditions**



## Tier II

Once demand for vaccination from those in Tier I has been met:

- **Healthcare & Emergency Medical Services personnel**
- **People 6 months through 24 years** - many cases of H1N1 influenza have been seen in this age group. They are in close contact with each other in day care and school which increases the likelihood of disease spread.
- **People 25 - 64 years old with health conditions associated with higher risk of medical complications from influenza (asthma, diabetes, heart conditions, etc.)**

## Tier III

Once demand for vaccination from those in Tier II has been met:

- **All other individuals 25 years of age and older**

Individuals will need one dose of H1N1 vaccine - children 9 years and younger will require two doses of vaccine given one month apart.

H1N1 vaccinations will be available in a combination of settings including: healthcare provider offices, vaccination clinics organized by local health departments, and school based clinics.

The novel H1N1 vaccine does not replace the seasonal flu vaccine. It is intended to be used alongside seasonal flu vaccine to protect people. H1N1 vaccine and seasonal flu vaccines may be given on the same day.



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