



Philadelphia Department of Public Health
Division of Disease Control

DONALD F. SCHWARZ, MD, MPH
Deputy Mayor, Health & Opportunity
Health Commissioner

NAN FEYLER, JD, MPH
Chief of Staff

CAROLINE C. JOHNSON, MD
Director, Division of Disease Control

Health Advisory
Philadelphia's H1N1 Vaccine Program
09/03/2009

On August 21st, the CDC's Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices (ACIP) published recommendations regarding use of vaccine for prevention of novel influenza A (H1N1) virus infection (<http://www.cdc.gov/mmwr/preview/mmwrhtml/rr58e0821a1.htm>). The following information summarizes those recommendations and provides information on vaccine distribution in Philadelphia. Many details about vaccine availability and administration are still unresolved, so this information should be considered preliminary.

The City of Philadelphia will receive H1N1 vaccine from the federal government, which is the sole source of H1N1 flu vaccine for both public and private patients. The Philadelphia Department of Public Health (PDPH) will administer the H1N1 vaccine distribution program within the City. Vaccine is free of charge and will be provided with syringes, needles, sharps containers, and alcohol swabs. Most insurers, including Medicaid, have agreed to reimburse a standard vaccine administration fee. Philadelphia's H1N1 vaccine program covers all eligible providers within Philadelphia; the state of Pennsylvania's program is a separate effort that covers providers outside of the city.

RECOMMENDED INITIAL TARGET GROUPS FOR H1N1 VACCINE

The primary focus of vaccination efforts should be to immunize, as quickly as possible, the recommended target groups. The ACIP has identified five initial target groups for vaccination efforts (order does not indicate priority):

- Persons 6 months - 24 years of age
- Persons who live with or care for infants <6 months of age
- Persons 25 - 64 years of age with high-risk chronic medical conditions*
- Pregnant women
- Healthcare personnel+

*** Chronic medical conditions include chronic pulmonary (including asthma), cardiovascular (except hypertension), renal, hepatic, cognitive, neurologic/neuromuscular, hematologic, or metabolic disorders (including diabetes mellitus), or immunosuppression (caused by medications or by HIV).**

+ Healthcare personnel include all paid and unpaid persons working in health care settings who have the potential for exposure to patients with influenza, infectious materials, or contaminated environmental surfaces.

Once vaccine availability increases and the demand for vaccine in the five target groups has been met at the local level, providers can begin vaccinating:

- Persons 25 - 64 years of age
- Persons >65 years

PDPH will advise providers when vaccination efforts can be expanded to include the broader groups.

VACCINE AVAILABILITY IN PHILADELPHIA

Licensed vaccine is expected to be available in mid-October, following completion of clinical studies. The bulk of the vaccine available in mid-October will be prefilled syringes. Other packaging will be

available in larger quantities as the flu season progresses. Current H1N1 vaccines are monovalent, using virus strain A/California/07/2009 (H1N1). Adjuvanted vaccine, if used, would not be released until later in the season. Although early distribution of vaccine may be restricted, overall supplies of vaccine are expected to meet demand.

H1N1 VACCINE DOSING & ADMINISTRATION GUIDELINES

- Patients need both seasonal and H1N1 flu vaccines (if eligible) to be protected from both types of flu; cross-protection between flu vaccines is not likely.
- Simultaneous administration of pneumococcal polysaccharide vaccine, seasonal flu and/or H1N1 flu vaccines is acceptable, when indicated, as long as different anatomical sites are used.
- Administering two live attenuated flu vaccines (LAIV: FluMist® MedImmune) simultaneously (e.g. H1N1 and seasonal flu in separate nostrils) is not recommended. The recommended interval between administering such doses has not yet been determined.
- Two doses of H1N1 flu vaccine, 21-28 days apart, are expected to be necessary for adequate protection in eligible individuals, pending clinical trial results.
- Vaccine should not be kept in reserve for later administration of the second dose, since H1N1 vaccine supply and availability is projected to increase quickly over time.
- Individuals who already had a suspect or confirmed case of H1N1 flu should still receive H1N1 vaccine to boost their immune response.

H1N1 VACCINE DISTRIBUTION NETWORK IN PHILADELPHIA

Recently, PDPH has begun to work with many providers in Philadelphia to create a network of H1N1 vaccine distribution sites across the City. The following sites are considered to be part of this network:

- Vaccines for Children (VFC) providers
- Non-VFC practices serving a significant number of pediatric patients
- Vaccines for Adults At Risk (VFAAR) providers
- Hospital occupational health services
- Hospital-affiliated specialty medical clinics
- Prenatal and obstetrical providers
- University student health services
- Residential facilities serving high-risk individuals
- Dialysis centers
- Schools K-12
- PDPH District Health Centers
- Community-based walk-in clinics, locations & dates to be identified subsequently

PDPH will continue to work directly with these sites, or with the designated point-of-contact for hospitals, to explain the vaccine ordering and accountability process. There will be special rules applied for H1N1 vaccine. For example, all provider sites will need to sign the CDC's *Memorandum of Understanding (MOU)* prior to receiving vaccine. In addition, providers will be required to report all H1N1 doses administered on a weekly basis to PDPH. All sites in the H1N1 distribution network (above list) can expect to receive additional guidance from PDPH in the coming weeks.

If you are not sure if your practice or clinic is included in the H1N1 distribution network, please check with your chief medical officer or administrator. You may also inquire about your status by emailing vaccines@phila.gov. If you would like to be considered for addition to the H1N1 vaccine distribution network, you may send the request to vaccines@phila.gov.