

H1N1 VACCINE FAQs

Is the vaccine safe for children?



The flu shot is approved for use in people 6 months of age and older. The risks of serious complications from acquiring H1N1 influenza in children are much greater than the possible side effects relating to the vaccine.

Is the vaccine recommended for people over the age of 64?

Yes, the vaccine is safe and recommended for people over the age of 64. Vaccines were originally first given to people who are considered at the highest risk for getting H1N1 flu (children 6 months – young adults 24 years, pregnant women, health care workers, obese patients, adults with underlying medical conditions such as heart disease, asthma or diabetes). However, currently, as there is ample supply of the vaccine, it is recommended that everyone, including those over the age of 64, receive the vaccine.



Are there groups of people who should NOT receive the vaccine?

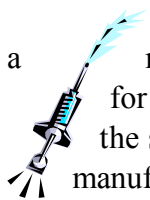


People who have a severe allergy to chicken eggs, any type of vaccination in the past, are currently feeling ill and children under the age of 6 months should NOT receive the vaccine (the vaccine has not been approved for this age group).

What types of vaccines are available?

There are two kinds of 2009 H1N1 vaccines being produced:

A 2009 H1N1 "flu shot" — is an inactivated vaccine (containing killed virus) that is given with a needle, usually in the arm. The indications for who can get the 2009 H1N1 flu shot are the same as for seasonal flu shots. The same manufacturers who produce seasonal flu shots are producing 2009 H1N1 flu shots for use in the United States this season. The 2009 H1N1 flu shot is



being made in the same way that the seasonal flu shot is made.

The 2009 H1N1 nasal spray flu vaccine — a vaccine made with live, modified and weakened viruses that do not cause the flu (sometimes called LAIV for "live attenuated influenza vaccine"). However, this type of vaccine is not being offered at the clinic.

Does the H1N1 vaccine protect against the seasonal flu?

No, the yearly (seasonal) flu vaccine does not contain protection against the H1N1 strain. It is recommended that people get **both** the seasonal flu vaccine and the new H1N1 flu vaccine.

How long will it take before the vaccine takes effect?

About 2 weeks after vaccination, the vaccine will reach full effectiveness.

When is the best time to receive the vaccine?

Vaccination against 2009 H1N1 should begin now and continue throughout the influenza season, which extends into the spring of 2010. This is because the timing and duration of flu activity can vary. Although it may seem late to receive the vaccine, flu seasons can last as late as April or May.



What are some side effects of the vaccine?

Side effects of the flu shot, although extremely rare, include: soreness or redness around the injection site, low grade fever and aches.



Is it possible to get the flu from the vaccine?

No, the shot contains killed virus and therefore people cannot get the virus from the vaccine. Some people however, may mistake some of the side effects of the vaccine (see above) as flu symptoms.