

Novel H1N1 (Swine Flu) Vaccine Information

A vaccine for novel H1N1 influenza, also known as swine flu, is expected to become available this fall. This vaccine will be voluntary which means that you will only get the vaccine if you choose to; it will not be required. The novel H1N1 vaccine will only protect you from novel H1N1 flu, not the seasonal flu. It is very important that you get the seasonal flu vaccine this year to protect you from the seasonal flu.

The novel H1N1 vaccine is expected to be initially available in limited quantities. Since there will not be enough for everybody right away, the vaccine will first be made available to groups of people who are at higher risk of disease or serious complications due to H1N1 influenza. The target groups include:

- pregnant women;
- people who live with or care for children younger than 6 months of age;
- healthcare and emergency medical services personnel who work directly with patients;
- children 6 months through 4 years of age; and,
- children 5 through 18 years of age who have chronic medical conditions.

Once the demand for vaccinations among these target groups been met and more vaccine becomes available, we will be able to offer vaccine to the broader priority group which includes:

- high risk individuals identified above
- children and young adults ages 5 through 24
- individuals up to age 64 with chronic medical conditions

When the supply of vaccine becomes available, it will be offered to everyone. Current studies show that the risk for infection among persons 65 or older is less than the risk for younger age groups. Many people who are over the age of 65 are less likely to get novel H1N1 than younger people.

People who are interested in getting the novel H1N1 vaccine should contact their health care provider to determine if they will offer vaccinations. If you are unable to get the vaccine through your health care provider, the Eastern Highlands Health District (EHHD) is planning clinics in each member town initially targeting the priority groups identified by the Center for Disease Control and Prevention (as listed above). The EHHD will work with local schools to provide broad access to the vaccine for school children. Information about your local "School Located Vaccination Clinic" will be sent home with your children. If you live in an EHHD member town, meet the criteria of a priority group, and have questions about where to find the Novel H1N1 vaccine, please contact our office.

[Novel H1N1 Influenza: Frequently Asked Questions](#)

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As the lead health district for your area, we are working closely with state and federal officials on distributing the novel H1N1 vaccine to Connecticut residents.

To learn about novel H1N1 influenza, visit the CT Flu Watch website at www.ct.gov/ctfluwatch.