

H1N1 flu



The Vaccine

Public Information Web Site: www.flu.gov

Is the vaccine safe?

The vaccine is manufactured using the same methods as the seasonal flu vaccine. It is not considered a trial drug. The studies performed were to determine the most effective method of administration.

When will the vaccine be available?

The vaccine is expected to be released in mid to late October. It will be released gradually and given to priority groups first.

Who can get H1N1 vaccine?

First, **everyone is eligible for the H1N1 flu vaccine**, although some people may have health issues that would be affected by a vaccine and therefore should not take it. The goal of the pandemic influenza vaccination program is to **vaccinate all persons in the United States who choose to be vaccinated**. More than \$8 billion is being invested in developing enough vaccine for everyone who needs it.

Because the vaccine may be released gradually beginning in mid October, a priority list is developed to focus on immediate immunization for:

- Those most vulnerable to this specific flu strain,
- Those most likely to spread the flu, and
- Sustaining health care workers so they can assist the sick in a pandemic.

The groups most vulnerable for this strain of influenza are – younger people, pregnant women, health care personnel, and people who have underlying health conditions. Immunizing these groups first will help contain the spread of the flu during the vaccination roll-out which may take a few months.

Here are the statistics on who is most vulnerable to the novel H1N1 flu:

- The infection rate was progressively lower in adults as their age increased.
- The infection rate for people 5-24 years of age is 26.7 per 100,000.
- The infection rate for people 25-49 years of age is 6.9/100,000.
- The infection rate for people 50-64 years of age is 3.9/100,000.
- The infection rate for people 65 years and older is 1.3/100,000 (or twenty times lower than in those 5-24 years age group).

Where will I get the vaccine?

In Iowa, local public health agencies are in charge of determining the best distribution methods for the area. In Adair County, the vaccine will be distributed in much the same way as the seasonal flu within the restrictions of the priority groups. Watch for advertisements in your local newspapers.

How much will the vaccine cost?

The vaccine will be free to the administrators. Local public health will receive federal funds to advertise and distribute the vaccine and will not charge. Other distributors will not receive these funds and will charge an administration fee. In most cases this fee will be paid by insurance carriers. You may need to contact your insurance company to see how your plan will handle this fee.