

New Jersey Dept. of Health and Senior Services
Public Information – Update 21

Date: November 18, 2009

Time: 12:30 PM

H1N1 Influenza and Vaccination Program

2009 H1N1 INFLUENZA

[NEW] I read in the paper (or heard on the news) that there are more deaths in NJ caused by H1N1. Does this mean it's getting worse?

No. Current information shows that there has not been a change in H1N1 severity. H1N1, just as seasonal influenza, can cause a range of illness--from mild to severe. Though some cases can be fatal, the vast majority are not. The flu-related deaths that have been reported to us have occurred primarily in patients with conditions that put them at risk for flu-related complications. In an effort to quickly identify any changes that might occur during the current pandemic, public health officials at CDC and state and local health departments will continue to closely monitor this situation, especially to see if there are changes in H1N1 disease severity.

H1N1 VACCINE

[UPDATED] How many H1N1 flu vaccines have been FDA-approved?

Five vaccines have been FDA approved:

Injectable Vaccines:

Influenza A (H1N1) 2009 Monovalent Vaccine (ID Biomedical) – 18 years of age and older

Influenza A (H1N1) 2009 Monovalent Vaccine (CSL Limited) – 6 months and older

Influenza A (H1N1) 2009 Monovalent Vaccine (Novartis Vaccines and Diagnostics Limited) - 4 years and older

Influenza A (H1N1) 2009 Monovalent Vaccine (Sanofi Pasteur, Inc.) - 6 months and older

Intranasal Vaccines:

Influenza A (H1N1) 2009 Monovalent Vaccine (MedImmune LLC) – 2-49 years (healthy and not pregnant)

[UPDATED] Can the seasonal vaccine and the 2009 H1N1 flu vaccine be given at the same time?

The seasonal flu vaccine and 2009 H1N1 flu vaccine are available as both live (nasal mist) and killed (injectable) vaccines.

Doses of seasonal nasal mist (live) flu vaccine and 2009 H1N1 nasal mist (live) flu vaccine cannot be given at the same time. They must be separated by a minimum of 14 days.

[Note: Other live virus vaccines, *if not given at the same time*, must be separated by 28 days.]

Seasonal injectable (killed) flu vaccine can be given at the same time as 2009 H1N1 nasal mist (live) flu vaccine. The opposite is true as well: Seasonal nasal mist (live) flu vaccine can be given at the same time as 2009 H1N1 injectable (killed) flu vaccine.

Tell your health care provider if you received any other vaccines within the past month or plan to get any within the next month.

[UPDATED] Can flu vaccines be given at the same time as other vaccines?

Nasal mist (live) flu vaccines can be given at the same time as killed vaccines (including injectable flu vaccine) *or any other live injectable vaccine (e.g., MMR, MMRV, varicella, yellow fever, pneumococcal)*. *If not given at the same time*, nasal mist (live) flu vaccines and other live vaccines should be separated by at least 4 weeks.

Tell your health care provider if you received any other vaccines within the past month or plan to get any within the next month.

[Note: Doses of seasonal nasal mist (live) flu vaccine and 2009 H1N1 nasal mist (live) flu vaccine **CANNOT** be given at the same time. They must be separated by a minimum of 14 days.]

[UPDATED] My child is due for a 2nd dose and I'm being told that he has to wait because the limited amount of vaccine needs to go to other children who have not yet had their 1st dose. If my child gets the 2nd dose more than 4 weeks after the 1st one, how does that affect his protection against the flu? Is my child protected against the flu with just one dose?

The span of 4 weeks between doses is a minimum time. The 2nd dose can be given after 4 weeks and still result in the same level of protection for your child. With just one dose, your child is protected against the flu, but for full protection a second dose should be administered. It is recommended that your child obtains the 2nd dose when it becomes available.

With limited supplies of vaccine, providers may target specific groups within the CDC defined priority groups or take steps to ensure that vaccine is available to members of those groups. For instance, providers may target pregnant women or choose to administer only the first shot of a two-dose regimen until vaccine is more available

PNEUMONIA VACCINATION

[UPDATED] How often should people be vaccinated against pneumonia?

Pneumococcal conjugate vaccine (PCV) is routinely given to children under 5 years old to protect them when they are at greatest risk for serious diseases caused by pneumococcal bacteria. *A single dose of pneumococcal polysaccharide vaccine (PPSV) is recommended for all people 65 years and older and for people 2 through 64 years of age with certain high-risk conditions.*

These individuals may be more likely to develop secondary bacterial pneumonia after an influenza infection. You should discuss with your doctor if you are a candidate for this vaccine. In addition, the PPSV is recommended for healthy adults 65 years and older. A second dose of PPSV is recommended for people 65 years and older who got their first dose when they were younger than 65 and it has been 5 or more years since the first dose. *[Note: People who cannot remember if they've ever had pneumococcal vaccine should still be vaccinated.]*

ADDITIONAL H1N1 INFORMATION / RESOURCES

Where can I learn more?

The CDC website will be providing daily updates regarding the status of this flu investigation in the US. They also have information posted such as questions and answers regarding Novel Influenza A (H1N1).

The web address is: [.cdc.gov/h1n1flu/](http://cdc.gov/h1n1flu/).

For NJ information, go to: [://www.nj.gov/health/flu/h1n1/](http://www.nj.gov/health/flu/h1n1/)