

FactSheet

Para Su Información

2009 H1N1 Influenza Vaccination Priority Groups

The 2009 Influenza A H1N1 vaccine has been approved by the Food and Drug Administration. The federal government will begin distributing the vaccine to the state health departments in early October. The Southern Nevada Health District anticipates that its initial delivery will be approximately 200,000 doses, and subsequent deliveries will be received weekly.

Initially, the vaccine supply will be limited. The health district will follow guidelines from the CDC to distribute the initial supply to several priority groups who have experienced more serious illness when infected with the 2009 H1N1 virus. These groups are:

- **Pregnant women** because they are at high risk of complications and can potentially provide protection to newborns who cannot be vaccinated.
- **People who live with or care for infants younger than 6 months of age** (e.g., parents, siblings, child care providers) because this age group is at higher risk of influenza-related complications and cannot be vaccinated. Vaccination of close contacts helps create a “cocoon” that protects young infants from the virus.
- **Health care and emergency medical services personnel** who have direct patient contact because infections among them have been reported and they can then spread it to vulnerable patients.
- **Children 6 months through 18 years of age** because cases of 2009 H1N1 influenza have been seen in children who are in close contact with each other in school and child care settings, which increases the likelihood of disease spread.

- **Young adults 19 through 24 years of age** because many cases of 2009 H1N1 influenza have been seen in these healthy young adults and they often live, work and study in close proximity, and they are a frequently mobile population.
- **Adults 25 through 64 years of age** who have health conditions associated with higher risk of medical complications from influenza.

If the vaccine supply is less than anticipated, the health district will limit initial vaccination to smaller priority groups. These are:

- Pregnant women.
- People who live with or provide care for infants less than 6 months of age.
- Health care and emergency medical services personnel who have direct contact with patients or infectious material.
- Children 6 months through 4 years of age.
- Children and adolescents 5 through 18 years of age who have medical conditions that put them at higher risk for influenza-related complications.

For up-to-date information on the H1N1 virus and vaccine availability, call (702) 759-INFO or go to www.SouthernNevadaHealthDistrict.org.



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