

What You Should Know

Like seasonal flu vaccine, the 2009 H1N1 vaccine is available in a shot form and a nasal spray form. Some differences include:

2009 H1N1 Flu Shot - Vaccine Information Statement

- Contains killed flu virus
- Is given by injection into the muscle
- Is the most common form of the 2009 H1N1 flu vaccine
- Is recommended for people 6 months of age and older, including healthy people, people with chronic medical conditions and pregnant women
- May contain the preservative thimerosal

2009 H1N1 Flu Nasal Spray - Vaccine Information Statement

- Contains live, but weakened flu virus
- Is given by spraying a mist into the nostrils
- Is a less common form of the 2009 H1N1 flu vaccine
- Is only recommended for 2-49 year-olds in good health status
- Is not recommended for pregnant women
- Does not contain thimerosal or other preservatives

Safety: The 2009 H1N1 vaccines, both forms, are manufactured and tested in the same ways that seasonal flu vaccine is made. For more on the 2009 H1N1 flu vaccine safety, click here. http://www.cdc.gov/h1n1flu/vaccination/vaccine_safety_qa.htm

Protection: Regardless of which form is used, it takes up to 2 weeks for protection to develop after you receive the vaccination. The 2009 H1N1 vaccine will not protect against seasonal flu viruses.

Children Under 10: Regardless of which form is used, children younger than 10 years should receive two doses of 2009 H1N1 flu vaccine. The two doses should be separated by 4 weeks.

Voluntary: The national 2009 H1N1 flu vaccine program is voluntary. Those interested in vaccination will receive accurate information so they can make an informed decision.

Cost: The 2009 H1N1 flu vaccine is free; however providers may charge an administration fee which may be billed to insurances. Every effort is being made to ensure that cost is not a barrier for anyone who would like to get vaccinated.

Who Should Be Vaccinated

When vaccine becomes available, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention recommends that the following five target groups receive the vaccine first (order does not indicate priority):

- Pregnant women;
- People who live with or provide care for infants younger than 6 months;
- Healthcare and emergency medical services personnel;
- People 6 months through 24 years of age; and
- People 25 years through 64 years of age who have certain medical conditions.

No shortage of 2009 H1N1 flu vaccine is expected, but vaccine availability and demand can be unpredictable and initially, the vaccine will be available in limited quantities.

Once the demand for vaccine for the target groups has been met at the local level, programs and providers will begin vaccinating everyone from the ages of 25 through 64 years.

Current studies indicate that the risk for infection among persons age 65 or older is less than the risk for younger age groups. However, once vaccine demand among younger age groups has been met, programs and providers should offer vaccination to people 65 or older.

Who Should Not Be Vaccinated

There are some people who should not get any flu vaccine without first consulting a physician:

- People who have a severe allergy to chicken eggs;
- People who have had a severe reaction to a flu vaccination;
- People who developed Guillain-Barré syndrome within 6 weeks of getting a flu vaccine previously.
- Children younger than 6 months of age (flu vaccine is not approved for this age group), and
- People who have a moderate-to-severe illness with a fever (they should wait until they recover to get vaccinated.)

When Will The Vaccine Be Available in Livingston County?

The 2009 H1N1 flu vaccine has begun to arrive in Livingston County; however it is in limited quantities. Therefore, the small supply that has arrived has been distributed to pediatricians, obstetricians and family practice physicians and will also be used to vaccinate healthcare workers and emergency responders in Livingston County.

Additional shipments of 2009 H1N1 flu vaccine are expected to begin arriving in Livingston County on a weekly basis near the end of October.

Where Will the H1N1 Vaccine be Available in Livingston County?

We are working with doctors' offices, health care centers, pharmacies, and other agencies, to make this vaccine widely available in Livingston County.

Since younger children are more engaged with their private medical provider, we encourage parents to seek the vaccine from their provider. We will also be offering community clinics in November. The dates, times and locations will be posted at www.lchd.org