



Flu Facts

Vaccination against H1N1 flu (also called “swine flu”)

This year, there are two different flu vaccines available for the public. One protects against the regular seasonal flu. The other protects against H1N1 flu, sometimes also called “swine flu”, that began to circulate in spring, 2009.

The H1N1 flu vaccine was made in the same way as the seasonal flu vaccine, which millions of Americans have received each year for decades. The H1N1 vaccine has been approved by the Food and Drug Administration. **The H1N1 vaccine is expected to be as safe and effective as the seasonal flu vaccine.** Extra safety testing and monitoring are being conducted.

The H1N1 vaccine is **highly recommended for some groups of people**, to protect those who are most vulnerable to developing severe illness or complications such as pneumonia if they catch H1N1 flu.

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention and the U-M Health System encourage these “highest priority” people to seek vaccination against H1N1 immediately. People in the next-highest and third-highest priority groups can also be vaccinated against H1N1, but may be asked to wait until enough vaccine has arrived and highest-priority patients are vaccinated.

HIGHEST PRIORITY PATIENTS: Should get vaccinated as soon as H1N1 vaccine is available

- **Pregnant women**
- **People who live in the same household as, or care directly for, babies under the age of 6 months**
- **Children aged 6 months through 4 years (up to the 5th birthday)**
- **Children and adolescents aged 5 to 18 years who have conditions that make them vulnerable to H1N1 complications**
(Cancer, blood disorders including sickle cell disease, chronic lung disease including asthma, diabetes, heart disease, kidney disorders, liver disorders, neurological disorders, neuromuscular disorders, and weakened immune systems due to disease or medical treatments they are receiving.)
- **Health care workers who have direct patient contact**

NEXT-HIGHEST PRIORITY: Should get vaccinated after more vaccine is available

- **Healthy children and young adults 5-24 years old**
- **Adults aged 19 through 64 years who have conditions that make them vulnerable to H1N1 complications**
(Cancer, blood disorders including sickle cell disease, chronic lung disease including asthma, diabetes, heart disease, kidney disorders, liver disorders, neurological disorders, neuromuscular disorders, and weakened immune systems due to disease or medical treatments they are receiving.)

THIRD-HIGHEST PRIORITY: Can get vaccinated after full supply of vaccine is available

- **Healthy adults aged 25-64 years**

FOURTH-HIGHEST PRIORITY:

- **Adults age 65 years and older**

For more information on flu-related issues, visit www.med.umich.edu/flu