

# 2009 H1N1 Vaccine Safety



## Why is vaccination important?

- Vaccination is the single best way to prevent influenza infection.
- Otherwise healthy people can become very ill from the influenza virus.
- Vaccination protects those around you and helps prevent the spread of the disease.

## Is the vaccine safe?

- The H1N1 vaccine is made using the same processes and facilities that are used to make current seasonal flu vaccine.
- The H1N1 vaccine has been tested for both safety and effectiveness.
- The chance of being harmed from this disease is much greater than any chance of being harmed from vaccination.

## What about Guillain-Barré Syndrome (GBS)?

- GBS is a rare disease in which the body damages its own nerve cells. It is not fully understood why some people develop it.
- In 1976 there was a small risk of GBS following swine flu vaccination.
- The vaccine will be closely monitored for any signs that there are adverse reactions in people receiving it.

## Should pregnant women be vaccinated?

- Pregnant women should be vaccinated against H1N1.
- Pregnant women are at increased risk for complications and hospitalization if infected with H1N1.
- The high fevers possible with H1N1 infection can be harmful to the developing baby.
- Pregnant women who are vaccinated can help protect their infants from H1N1 infection after they are born.

## What about children?

- Vaccination is recommended for children and young adults aged 6 months – 24 years.
- Serious complications have been seen in otherwise healthy people in this age group that have been infected with H1N1.

## Are there people who should not be vaccinated?

These people should not be vaccinated:

- People who have a severe allergy to chicken or eggs or to any other substance in the vaccine.
- Infants less than 6 months of age.
- People who have had a severe reaction to any influenza vaccine in the past.
- People who have previously had Guillain-Barré Syndrome.
- People with moderate to severe illness with a fever should wait until they recover to be vaccinated.

More information available at:

[www.cdc.gov/h1n1flu](http://www.cdc.gov/h1n1flu); [www.fda.gov/](http://www.fda.gov/)

*This fact sheet is for information only and is not meant to be used as a substitute for talking with a health care provider. If you have any questions about influenza virus or vaccination, please talk with your health care provider.*

### **District Health Department #10**

<b>Crawford Co</b> 989-348-7800	<b>Kalkaska Co</b> 231-258-8669	<b>Lake Co</b> 231-745-4663
------------------------------------	------------------------------------	--------------------------------

<b>Manistee Co</b> 231-723-3595	<b>Mason Co</b> 231-845-7381	<b>Mecosta Co</b> 231-592-0130
------------------------------------	---------------------------------	-----------------------------------

<b>Missaukee Co</b> 231-839-7167	<b>Newaygo Co</b> 231-689-7300	<b>Oceana Co</b> 231-873-2193
-------------------------------------	-----------------------------------	----------------------------------

**Wexford Co**  
231-775-9942