

District Health Department #10 Fact Sheet 2009 H1N1 Influenza Vaccine And Seniors



Why aren't seniors recommended to get early doses of H1N1 vaccine?

- People age 65 and older are least likely to get sick with this virus.
- The limited doses available early in the season are recommended for those who are most likely to get infected and become very ill.
- As in past years, people 65 and older are encouraged to get a seasonal flu vaccination.

What if I am the caregiver for a young infant?

- People of any age who care for infants less than 6 months old should get the H1N1 vaccine as soon as it is available.
- Flu vaccines are not approved for very young infants.
- When you get your flu vaccines, it helps protect others who cannot get vaccinated.

Will people 65 and older be able to get H1N1 vaccine later this season?

- It is expected that there will be enough vaccine for everyone to be vaccinated.
- The vaccine will be available to seniors once all high risk people in the community have been vaccinated.

Should people 65 and older get the regular flu vaccine this year?

- Yes, it is recommended that people get their regular flu vaccine as early in the season as possible.

- Seasonal flu viruses are expected to circulate this year in addition to H1N1.
- People age 65 and older are still the most likely group to have complications from seasonal influenza.

What should seniors do if they feel like they have the flu?

- People age 65 and older should see their doctor if they have flu symptoms.
- This group may need antiviral drugs if they become sick with flu.

Why are people 65 and older prioritized for antiviral drug treatment but not vaccination?

- People in this age group are least likely to be infected with H1N1 flu.
- If infected, however, they are more likely to develop complications from the illness.
- Antiviral drugs can help reduce how severe the illness is in someone who has been infected.

More information is available at: www.cdc.gov/h1n1flu and www.dhd10.org.

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, please talk with your provider.

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