

HEALTH ALERT NETWORK HEALTH DISTRICT 4

INFORMATION FOR ALL HEALTH CARE PROVIDERS

Please circulate to all clinical and support staff

H1N1 Vaccine Eligibility

October 28, 2009

Citizens coming to the public clinics to receive the H1N1 vaccine are receiving conflicting information from providers in the community. Here is the correct information. Due to limited vaccine supplies, Central District Health Department (CDHD) is restricting who can get injectable vaccine to people in the priority group who are not eligible for the live attenuated influenza vaccine (LAIV) or nasal mist.

Please use the following guidelines developed by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention when making H1N1 vaccine recommendations to your patients.

Injectable (with or without thimersol) **IS recommended for:**

- Pregnant women
- Children 6 months and older

LAIV (nasal mist) **IS recommended for:**

- Healthy people 2 to 49 years of age
-

Injectable (with or without thimersol) **is NOT recommended for:**

- People who are allergic to eggs
- People who have had a serious reaction to a previous dose of flu vaccine
- People who have had Guillain-Barre Syndrome within 6 weeks after receiving a flu vaccine

LAIV (nasal mist) **is NOT recommended for:**

- People who are allergic to eggs
- People who have had a serious reaction to a previous dose of flu vaccine
- People who have had Guillain-Barre Syndrome within 6 weeks after receiving a flu vaccine
- People with chronic medical conditions (e.g., asthma, diabetes (or other metabolic disease), or disease of the lungs, heart, kidneys, liver, nerves, or blood)

- People who received another live vaccine in the past 4 weeks (e.g., seasonal flu mist, MMR, varicella)
- People on long-term aspirin or aspirin-containing therapy
- People with a weak immune system (e.g., from HIV, cancer, or medications such as steroids or those used to treat cancer)
- People who have close contact with a person who needs care in a protected environment (e.g., someone who has recently had a bone marrow transplant).
- People who are pregnant or could become pregnant in the next month

Central District Health Department is currently utilizing the following CDC recommendations for narrowing priority groups when there are limited quantities of vaccine.

- Pregnant women,
- People who live with or care for children younger than 6 months of age,
- Health care and emergency medical services personnel with direct patient contact,
- Children 6 months through 4 years of age, and
- Children 5 through 18 years of age who have chronic medical conditions.

As soon as vaccine supplies increase or demand for vaccine goes down, CDHD will expand the priority groups. According to the CDC, the expanded version of priority groups will include:

- Pregnant women,
- People who live with or care for children younger than 6 months of age,
- Health care and emergency medical services personnel,
- Persons between the ages of 6 months through 24 years of age, and
- People from ages 25 through 64 years who are at higher risk for novel H1N1 because of chronic health disorders or compromised immune systems.

###