

2009 H1N1 Vaccine Safety



Why is vaccination important?

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

Is the vaccine safe?

- É The H1N1 vaccine is made using the same processes and facilities that are used to make current seasonal flu vaccine.
- É The H1N1 vaccine has been tested for both safety and effectiveness.
- É 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)?

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

Should pregnant women be vaccinated?

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

What about children?

- É Vaccination is recommended for children and young adults aged 6 months to 24 years.
- É 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:
- É People who have a severe allergy to chicken or eggs or to any other substance in the vaccine.
 - É Infants less than 6 months of age.
 - É People who have had a severe reaction to any influenza vaccine in the past.
 - É People who have previously had Guillain-Barré Syndrome.
 - É 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; 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

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