

2009 H1N1 Influenza Vaccine



And Seniors

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

- É People age 65 and older are least likely to get sick with this virus.
- É The limited doses available early in the season are recommended for those who are most likely to get infected and become very ill.
- É 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?

- É People of any age who care for infants less than 6 months old should get the H1N1 vaccine as soon as it is available.
- É Flu vaccines are not approved for very young infants.
- É 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?

- É It is expected that there will be enough vaccine for everyone to be vaccinated.
- É 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?

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

É Seasonal flu viruses are expected to circulate this year in addition to H1N1.
É 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?

- É People age 65 and older should see their doctor if they have flu symptoms.
- É 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?

- É People in this age group are least likely to be infected with H1N1 flu.
- É If infected, however, they are more likely to develop complications from the illness.
- É 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.

District Health Department #10

Crawford Co 989-348-7800	Kankaska Co 231-258-8669	Lake Co 231-745-4663
Manistee Co 231-723-3595	Mason Co 231-845-7381	Mecosta Co 231-592-0130
Missaukee Co 231-839-7167	Newaygo Co 231-689-7300	Oceana Co 231-873-2193
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