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H1N1 VACCINE: WHAT, WHO, AND HOW?

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WHAT

Immunization for the novel influenza A H1N1 virus will begin as soon as vaccines come to market in the US in mid-to late October. There are currently four FDA approved vaccines: three inactivated intramuscular and one live intranasal. The three intramuscular formulations are available in thimerosal-free formulations. Table below summarizes available products and dosing for individual groups.

WHO

On July 29th of this year, CDC's Advisory Committee on Vaccination Practices (ACIP) outlined recommendations to target vaccination efforts based on disease severity and risk of transmission. Initial Target Population includes five groups:

1. Pregnant women
2. People living with or caring for infants younger than 6 months
3. Healthcare and emergency-response personnel
4. Children and young adults (6 months-24 years)
5. Adults age 25-64 years at high risk for complications

The CDC has also defined a subset of the initial target population who should get priority in case that the initial vaccine supply does not meet demand. The target subgroups that should receive priority vaccinations in case of low initial supply include:

1. #1 and #2 from the Initial Target Population groups
2. Healthcare and emergency personnel with direct patient contact
3. Children age 6 months-4 years
4. Children and young adults (age 5 - 18 years) with underlying medical conditions

Once immunization needs for these target groups have been met, vaccines should be made available for all adults age 18-64 years and then to adults age 65 and older.

In regards to co-administration of seasonal and novel virus vaccines, two inactivated vaccines or one live and one inactivated influenza vaccines may be administered during the same visit, however administration of two live vaccines at the same time is not advised.

On the next page:

How to enroll into the vaccination program: instructions and requirements

Manufacturer	Vaccine Type	Age Group	Dosage Schedule
Sanofi Pasteur	Inactivated (intramuscular)	6 months through 35 months	Two 0.25 mL doses one month apart
		36 months through 9 years	Two 0.5 mL doses one month apart
		10 years and older	Single 0.5 mL dose
Novartis	Inactivated (intramuscular)	Adults	Single 0.5 mL dose
		4 years through 9 years	Two 0.5 mL doses one month apart
		10 years through 17 years	Single 0.5 mL dose
CSL	Inactivated (intramuscular)	Adults	Single 0.5 mL dose
		18 years and older	Single 0.5 mL dose
MedImmune	Live (intranasal)	2 years through 9 years	Two 0.2 mL doses one month apart
		10 years through 49 years	Single 0.2 mL dose

H1N1 VACCINE: WHAT, WHO, AND HOW? (Cont. from page 1)

HOW

Vaccine for the novel influenza A H1N1 virus, as well as all supplies needed for administration, is being purchased and provided by the federal government in order to control the spread of epidemic. Providers in the state of Michigan should follow instructions provided by the Michigan Department of Community Health (MDCH) to become eligible for receipt and distribution of H1N1 immunizations.

To enroll, providers must:

1. Register with the Michigan Care Improvement Registry www.mcir.org. The use of the database will ensure vaccine supply tracking, adverse events reporting and patient recall for those who may need a second dose.

Providers must use the registry to track administration and dispensing.

2. Complete the MDCH Provider Agreement available at <http://michigan.gov/mdch/> (click on the H1N1 Vaccine link.) Provider agreement requires an estimate of number of patient from several prespecified groups according to risk stratification. This will be used to allocate the vaccine supply. Provider agreement should be sent to the local health department. Local health department information can be accessed at: www.malph.org

Vaccines may be distributed directly by McKesson and supply shipped will be automatically entered into the MICR database for the purpose of supply and dose tracking. Vaccines should be kept between 2-8 degrees Celsius and should not be exposed to freezing temperature or frozen at any time.

Additional information on vaccine storage and handling can be found at: <http://michigan.gov/mdch/> (click on the H1N1 Vaccine link.)

All documents mentioned here, lists of Frequently Asked Questions for patients and providers, and links to state and local health departments are also available at HAP website: www.hap.org.