



H1N1 VACCINE

When will the 2009 H1N1 flu vaccine be available?

H1N1 vaccine is arriving in Missouri on a weekly basis. Each county will distribute the vaccine differently, so contact your local public health agency for distribution information for your county.

Will the seasonal flu vaccine also protect against the 2009 H1N1 flu?

No. The seasonal flu vaccine is not expected to protect against the 2009 H1N1 flu.

Who should get the 2009 H1N1 flu vaccine?

Vaccination is our best protection against flu viruses, both seasonal and H1N1 flu. Public health experts encourage anyone who is eligible to get vaccinated. While officials do not expect a shortage of 2009 H1N1 flu vaccine, it will not all be available at once. The CDC has recommended that certain groups receive the 2009 H1N1 flu vaccine when it first becomes available. These priority groups are based upon those who have been most severely affected by the H1N1 virus over the past several months. The comprehensive priority groups include:

- pregnant women
- people who live with or care for children younger than 6 months of age
- healthcare and emergency medical services personnel
- persons between the ages of 6 months and 24 years old
- people ages of 25 through 64 years of age who are at higher risk for 2009 H1N1 because of chronic health conditions or compromised immune systems.

Vaccine availability and demand can be unpredictable. If the vaccine is initially available in very limited quantities, public health officials will first distribute vaccine to a more narrow set of priority groups, also recommended by the CDC. That narrow group includes:

- 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
- children 5 through 18 years of age who have chronic medical conditions.

Local public health officials will assess supply and demand issues at the local level. Once the demand for vaccine for these target groups has been met locally, providers should begin vaccinating everyone from ages 25 through 64 years.

What about people 65 and older?

Current studies show the risk for infection among persons age 65 or older is less than the risk for younger age groups. A certain proportion of the age 65 and older population has some pre-existing immunity to the 2009 H1N1 flu. Because of that, persons age 65 and older will be asked to wait until higher risk groups, those with no immunity, have had a chance to receive the vaccine. As soon as there is enough vaccine to meet the needs of the highest-risk groups, providers should begin offering H1N1 vaccination to people 65 years and older. In the meantime, persons age 65 and older are encouraged to get a seasonal flu vaccination.

I was sick earlier this year and my doctor told me it was probably 2009 H1N1 flu. Do I still need to get vaccinated?

Yes. Unless you received confirmation from the State Public Health Laboratory that you were a confirmed 2009 H1N1 flu case, health officials cannot be absolutely certain that the strain causing the illness was H1N1. A rapid flu test done in your doctor's office does not verify infection with 2009 H1N1 flu. Because 2009 H1N1 flu is circulating locally, your doctor may have assumed that your flu was caused by the H1N1 virus. However, without extensive laboratory testing, the true cause of the illness cannot be determined. It is safe to receive the vaccine if you already had the 2009 H1N1 flu, so to make sure you're protected, public health officials encourage a 2009 H1N1 vaccination even if a person was sick in the summer or early fall.

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For more information, contact your local public health department or visit www.FightTheFluMO.com

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If I was vaccinated against the 1976 swine flu, do I need to get vaccinated against the 2009 H1N1 flu?

Yes. The 1976 swine flu virus and the 2009 H1N1 virus are different enough that it’s unlikely a person vaccinated in 1976 will have full protection from the 2009 H1N1 flu virus. People vaccinated in 1976 should still be given the 2009 H1N1 vaccine.

Can the seasonal vaccine and the 2009 H1N1 vaccine be given at the same time?

Yes. However, the seasonal vaccine is available now and public health experts encourage individuals to get it, as the usual seasonal flu viruses are still expected to cause illness this fall and winter. While public health officials do anticipate that seasonal flu and 2009 H1N1 vaccines can be given on the same day, public health officials strongly recommend a seasonal flu shot now.

If you are over 10 years old and get:	You can get: <i>(if vaccine is available and you fall into the appropriate priority group)</i>
Seasonal FluMist® today	• H1N1 flu shot today, OR H1N1 FluMist® in 28 days
Seasonal flu shot today	• H1N1 flu shot today, OR H1N1 FluMist® today
H1N1 FluMist® today	• Seasonal flu shot today, OR Seasonal FluMist® in 28 days
H1N1 flu shot today	• Seasonal flu shot today, OR Seasonal FluMist® today

How many shots will I need to be fully-protected from 2009 H1N1 flu?

Persons age 10 and older will be fully-protected with one dose of 2009 H1N1 flu vaccine. Children 9 years of age and younger will need two doses of the vaccine. The two doses should be given at least 21 days apart, with 28 days being the preferred interval. This is slightly different than the CDC’s recommendations for seasonal flu vaccination which says that children younger than nine who are receiving the flu vaccine for the first time need to receive two doses. Infants younger than six months are too young to get the 2009 H1N1 and seasonal flu vaccines.

Will the 2009 H1N1 influenza vaccine be safe?

The CDC and FDA closely monitor the safety of seasonal influenza and other vaccines licensed for use in the United States in cooperation with state and local health departments, healthcare providers and other partners. Over the years, hundreds of millions of Americans have received seasonal flu vaccines. The 2009 H1N1 flu vaccine was produced much like seasonal flu vaccines, which have a very good safety track record.

Will this vaccine be made differently than the seasonal influenza vaccine?

No. This vaccine will be made using the same processes and facilities that are used to make the currently licensed seasonal flu vaccines. The US government is working closely to provide the public with a fully-approved 2009 H1N1 flu vaccine later this fall. The FDA has approved four vaccines manufactured by CSL Limited, MedImmune, Novartis and Sanofi Pasteur. These vaccines are made in Australia, Europe, the U.K. and the United States.

Are there any side effects to the 2009 H1N1 influenza vaccine?

If individuals do experience side effects, public health officials expect them to be similar to those experienced following seasonal flu vaccinations. Mild side effects may include: soreness, redness or swelling where the shot was given, fainting (mainly adolescents), headache, muscle aches, fever and nausea. If these problems occur, they usually begin soon after the shot and last 1-2 days. Life-threatening allergic reactions to vaccines are very rare. If they do occur, it is usually within a few minutes to a few hours after the shot is given.

Are there some people who should not receive this vaccine?

People who have a severe (life-threatening) allergy to chicken eggs or to any other substance in the vaccine should not be vaccinated.

Will the 2009 H1N1 vaccines that are currently recommended contain adjuvants?

No. According to current federal plans, only unadjuvanted vaccines will be used in the United States during the 2009 flu season. This includes all of the 2009 H1N1 and seasonal influenza vaccines that will be available for children and adults in both the injectable and nasal spray formulations. None of these influenza vaccines will contain adjuvants. 2009 H1N1 vaccines with adjuvants are being studied to determine if they are safe and effective. Experts will review these data when they are available. There is no plan at this time to recommend a 2009 H1N1 influenza vaccine with an adjuvant.

Will there be a thimerosal-free (preservative-free) 2009 H1N1 influenza vaccine available?

Yes. The 2009 H1N1 influenza vaccines that FDA is licensing (approving) will be manufactured in several formulations, including a mist.

