

H1N1 Swine Flu Vaccine Quick Facts

Is the H1N1 vaccine mandatory?

The state is NOT mandating any vaccinations. However, individual healthcare facilities may have their own policy regarding their employees. Healthcare staff will need to check with their human resource/employee health office regarding their specific workplace policy. If you have questions about whether you should get the vaccine, please consult with your healthcare provider.

Who should receive it first?

Florida will be following CDC guidance on who should be vaccinated when demand exceeds initial supplies of vaccine. For those initial vaccination efforts, CDC has identified five target groups whose members are at higher risk for influenza or influenza-related complications, are likely to come in contact with influenza viruses as part of their occupation and could transmit influenza viruses to others in medical care settings, or are close contacts of infants aged <6 months (who are too young to be vaccinated). Those target population groups are:

- pregnant women,
- persons who live with or provide care for infants aged <6 months (e.g., parents, siblings, and daycare providers),
- health-care and emergency medical services personnel as defined in the MMWR (<http://www.cdc.gov/mmwr/preview/mmwrhtml/rr58e0821a1.htm>)
- persons aged 6 months--24 years, and
- persons aged 25--64 years who have medical conditions that put them at higher risk for influenza-related complications

With the exception of health care personnel, occupation is not a determining factor for initial vaccination. Rather, individuals in all occupations should assess if they fall into one of the five target groups and decide if vaccination is appropriate for them. It is anticipated that sufficient supplies of vaccine will become available quickly and anyone wishing to receive vaccination will be able.

Does the H1N1 Flu vaccination replace the annual flu vaccine?

No, everyone is encouraged to get both vaccinations as they become available.

Why are the recommendations for who should receive H1N1 (Swine) Flu vaccine different from annual flu vaccine?

Even though the H1N1 (Swine) Flu is an influenza virus like seasonal flu, it is affecting different groups of people more significantly than seasonal influenza. As with any disease vaccination, experts develop their recommendations by using current disease patterns, identify population groups are most at-risk for severe illness by determining who is getting ill more frequently and having more severe complications such as hospitalization and death, and how much of a vaccine could be available and when.

More Information is Available

- Your local county health department is a great resource. Find yours here: www.floridashealth.com
- The Florida Department of Health's website: www.myflusafety.com
- The toll free Florida Flu Information Line, 1-877-352-3581, is available 24/7 for recorded messages in English, Spanish and Haitian-Creole. Operators are available 8am to 8pm eastern standard time.
- The Health and Human Services influenza website: www.flu.gov
- The Centers for Disease Control & Prevention website: http://www.cdc.gov/h1n1flu/general_info.htm