

District Health Department #10 Fact Sheet

2009 H1N1 Vaccine Safety



Why is vaccination important?

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

Is the vaccine safe?

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

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

Should pregnant women be vaccinated?

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

What about children?

- Vaccination is recommended for children and young adults aged 6 months – 24 years.
- 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:

- People who have a severe allergy to chicken or eggs or to any other substance in the vaccine.
- Infants less than 6 months of age.
- People who have had a severe reaction to any influenza vaccine in the past.
- People who have previously had Guillain-Barré Syndrome.
- 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

Crawford Co 989-348-7800	Kalkaska 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
Wexford Co 231-775-9942		