



UPDATE ON THE H1N1 VACCINE

This update is from Director of FOH Clinical Services, CAPT Mark Delowery, D.O., M.P.H., and is based on an FOH conference call with the CDC on Wednesday, **July 15, 2009**.

- The H1N1 virus continues to be relatively mild with the vast majority of cases recovering without treatment, but still has the potential to cause severe disease and death.
- H1N1 virus continues to spread with highest rates in young adults under 25 years old. Expect a surge in the fall, but severity is difficult to predict at this time.
- H1N1 Vaccine Production
Recommendations around vaccine supplies, distribution and risk groups are subject to change based on new developments and changing epidemiology of the disease:
 - Vaccine for novel H1N1 virus is under production by five manufacturers: Sanofi Pasteur, Novartis, GlaxoSmithKline, Medimmune, and CSL.
 - Clinical testing for the vaccine is scheduled to begin in early August 2009 to determine the most effective and safest dose to generate a strong immune response to the H1N1 virus.
 - First supplies of the vaccine may be available as early as mid-October if all studies and production go well.
- Vaccine Distribution and Administration:
 - Early supplies will be administered to the [highest risk groups](http://www.cdc.gov/vaccines/spec-grps) <<www.cdc.gov/vaccines/spec-grps>> such as healthcare workers.
 - Priority/Risk groups may be different from previous flu vaccine recommendations based on changing epidemiology of the disease.
 - It is likely that two doses will be required but this will depend on the results of clinical trials.
 - H1N1 vaccine will be administered in addition to/separate from seasonal flu vaccine. It is anticipated that both vaccines could be administered together IF they are available at the same time.

FOH is in discussions with CDC to secure supplies of the H1N1 vaccine for high risk groups when the vaccine becomes available. We will update information as it becomes available.