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LOCATION



**Bulletin for Physicians  
Pandemic (H1N1) 2009**

**Date:** October 22, 2009

**From:** Dr. Gerry Predy, Senior Medical Officer of Health, Alberta Health Services

**Re:** Influenza Vaccines – Update for Physicians

Pandemic (H1N1) 2009 influenza is the dominant influenza virus circulating at this time and influenza activity is increasing rapidly throughout Alberta. Seasonal influenza strains also are expected to circulate this winter in Alberta.

The following influenza vaccines will be available in Alberta this fall: two seasonal (trivalent) vaccines – thimerosal and thimerosal-reduced; and two pandemic H1N1 (pH1N1) vaccines - adjuvanted and non-adjuvanted. The pH1N1 vaccines will be distributed to provinces in staged delivery amounts over the next few months.

**pH1N1 adjuvanted vaccine:**

- Will be available to the public beginning October 26, 2009 in Alberta.
- Initially pH1N1 vaccine will be available to the public only via Public Health mass clinics because of short time lines, uncertain stock delivery dates and to allow time for Public Health to prepare for delivery by other partners.
- pH1N1 vaccine is expected to be provided to Physicians' offices and other providers by mid-November at the earliest.
- While the pH1N1 vaccine will be available to all Albertans, initial pH1N1 vaccine clinics will be targeted through public messaging to those at highest risk of severe disease or complications\*, household contacts of infants less than 6 months of age and of immunocompromised, and Aboriginal people and healthcare workers; but no one will be turned away from mass clinics.  
\*Those at highest risk for severe disease or complications include:
  - persons less than 65 years of age with chronic medical conditions,
  - immunocompromised individuals,
  - children less 5 years of age (vaccine not licensed for those less than 6 months of age), and
  - In cases where the unadjuvanted vaccine is unavailable and H1N1 flu rates are high or increasing in the community, women more than 20 weeks pregnant should be offered one dose of the adjuvanted vaccine.

**pH1N1 non-adjuvanted vaccine:**

- Will be targeted to pregnant women.
- The pH1N1 non-adjuvanted vaccine will not be available until mid-November.

**Seasonal influenza vaccine** is currently available through physician clinics and Public Health.

- The seasonal vaccine is available to anyone in Alberta free of charge.
- The seasonal vaccine is targeted to all those at high risk of complications of seasonal influenza which includes the H1N1 risk groups\* and those 65 and over.

**Seasonal and pH1N1 vaccines can be co-administered (in separate arms and using separate needles and syringes) or at any time interval.**

For additional information including clinic locations and times, see the AHS web site for Pandemic (H1N1) 2009 Information for Health Professionals: